SUNDAY
June 29, 2025

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TRACING BACK

Mapping India's genetic richness

Large genetic map of Indians flags hidden disease risks

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The progressive man of Manhattan

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Smriti sets up big win for India in first T20I

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New draft of U.S. law to tax foreign remittances dilutes rates, spares card transfers

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

U.S. legislators have significantly diluted a provision in a proposed law to tax remittances to other countries, including India. The latest draft of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act", released on Friday, reduces the tax on remittances to 1% from the earlier proposal of 3.5%, and also exempts remittances made from bank accounts and other financial institutions, or made using debit or credit cards.

The 1% tax will now apply only on remittances made in cash, a money order, or a cashier's cheque. According to international tax experts, this will come as a relief to the non-resident Indians in the U.S.

"There is hereby imposed on any remittance transfer a tax equal to 1 percent of the amount of such transfer," the latest version of the Bill says. "The tax imposed by this section with respect to any remittance transfer shall be paid by the sender with respect to such transfer."

"The tax imposed under subsection (a) shall apply only to any remittance transfer for which the sender provides cash, a money order, a cashier's check, or any other similar physical instrument (as determined by the Secretary) to the remittance transfer provider," the latest draft adds. It says that remittances made from "an account held in or by a financial institution" and "funded with a debit card or a credit card which is issued in the United States" are exempt from the tax.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Remittance relief

The latest version of the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' comes as a relief to non-resident Indian community in the U.S, experts say

- Tax on remittances reduced to 1% from 3.5%, which in itself was an earlier reduction from the original 5%
- The 1% tax apply only on remittances made in cash, money order, or cashier's cheque
- Remittances made from U.S. bank accounts, and those via credit and debits cards exempted

Intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls under way

State govt. officials begin to distribute enumeration forms as voters not included on the 2003 rolls asked to establish eligibility; 'proud moment,' says CEC, Opposition brands the move dangerous

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Almost 2.93 crore voters in Bihar will have to produce documents establishing the date and place of their birth as a special intensive revision (SIR) of the State's electoral rolls began on Saturday. Those born after 1987 will have to produce the documents of their parents too.

State government officials began distributing enumeration forms to all registered voters on Saturday.

Bihar has 7,89,69,844 electors, of which the names of 4.96 crore were already on the electoral rolls when the last such intensive revision was carried out with January 1, 2003 as the qualifying date. These electors have to verify themselves by submitting enumeration forms mentioning their details.

However, guidelines released by the Election Commission (EC) say that anyone whose name was not recorded on the 2003 electoral rolls must establish their eligibility to be an elector, and submit proof of it using a wide range of eligible government documents.

The SIR is scheduled to end on September 30 with the publication of the updated voter rolls.

The EC has said that it has decided to start the exercise across the whole country, starting with Bihar, with schedules to be issued separately.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar told *The Hindu* that the exercise was a proud moment for all Indians, and added that the poll body "is and will always be" with the voters.

Opposition parties are up in arms against the SIR, which they have branded as more dangerous than the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Up to date: An official hands over an enumeration form to an elderly voter during the special intensive revision in Bihar. PTI

NEARBY

Three accused held in M.M. Hills tiger killing case

MYSURU
In a breakthrough in the probe into the death of five tigers in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, forest officials have arrested three persons who were allegedly involved in the case. » Page 6

Centre ratifies IPS officers' suspension

BENGALURU
Two weeks after the State government suspended three senior IPS officers for failing to act on the stampede incident at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Centre upheld the decision. » Page 6

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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆಸ್ತಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಸುಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಇಂದೇ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಇ-ಖಾತಾ

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Date: 29.06.2025, Sunday
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ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2.00 ಗಂಟೆ
Time: 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
ಸ್ಥಳ:
ಸಹಕಾರ ನಗರ ಮೈದಾನ
Place: Sahakaranagar Ground

ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು:
Required Documents:
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- ಎಸ್‌ಎಎಸ್ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ರಶೀದಿ
- ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಮೀಟರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
- ಆಸ್ತಿಯ ಜಿಪಿಎಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫೋಟೋ
- ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ
- ಇ.ಸಿ • ಖಾತಾ

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ಯುವನಿಧಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ ಭತ್ಯೆ ₹3000 | ₹1500

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Geared up: Running late for a session, tribal students from the Paderu area hurry along to the Yogandhra 2025 event in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU

Coming together: An aerial view of the Yoga Day celebrations along Beach Road in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

Navigating mindfully: About 500 personnel from the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, and other forces take part in the Yoga Day event at the INS Adyar naval base in Chennai. PIB

Into the inner mind: Women wearing traditional Nauvari saris perform yoga at the Gateway of India in Mumbai on the occasion of International Day of Yoga on June 21. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Breathe, bend, belong

Rooted in Indian tradition, yoga has found significant adoption across the world, with the United Nations recognising June 21 as the International Day of Yoga

The United Nations' recognition of June 21 as the International Day of Yoga has brought global attention and a boost to the ancient Indian lifestyle practice that focuses on breathing, flexibility and strength. The origins of yoga can be traced back to thousands of years, and it holds an important place in modern lifestyles.

Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy and, just as the remaining five, focuses on attaining self-realisation through its unique teachings for the control of mind and body.

This year's International Day of Yoga, observed last week, advocated the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", underlining that personal wellness and the health of the planet are linked. While people all over the country took to their mats in celebration of this wellness routine, the philosophy echoed around the world. The lawns of the United Nations headquarters in New York were lined with colourful mats with over 1,200 practising yoga together.

Terming yoga a 'pause button' that the world needs in times of instability and uncertainty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi put forward the idea of yoga for humanity, where inner peace becomes a global policy.

Although primarily a practice of health and well-being, the International Day of Yoga also turned a platform for social media spotlight with participants being keen to take their activities online.

The UN resolution in 2014 that adopted June 21 as the International Day of Yoga had noted the "importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health". The World Health Organization has urged its member states to help their citizens get over physical inactivity, which is a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

Recognising the importance of yoga as a tool to battle physical inactivity and encourage mental stimulation as well as relaxation is one of the key missions of the International Day of Yoga and the trend visible across many countries suggests that awareness is catching on.

(Text by Vighnesh P. Venkitesh)

Early beginning: A mother performs yoga at Lodhi Garden in New Delhi. R.V. MOORTHY

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J BG-BGE

Transport Minister cracks the whip on overcharging auto drivers

He terms it 'daylight robbery' and tells officials to cancel permits of erring auto drivers, including those operating under aggregators; mobile screenshots from commuters regarding violations to be taken into account for action

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has cracked the whip following the complaint that Bengaluru commuters have had for long – of autorickshaws overcharging. In a letter to the Transport Commissioner on Saturday, he directed the officials to cancel permits and take action against erring auto drivers, including those operating under aggregators.

Terming it "daylight robbery," Mr. Reddy gave the example of an auto ride costing ₹100.89 per km on one app on June 18, while on another, a 4-km ride cost ₹184.19. "The Transport Department has been taking action against autos refusing to ply and overcharging," he said, adding that mobile screenshots from commuters regarding such violations would be taken into account for action.

Commuters have been calling out aggregator-based auto rides for the hidden charges, algorithm-driven pricing, and inconsistent tipping policies. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru commuters have been calling out app-based auto rides for the hidden charges, algorithm-driven pricing, and inconsistent tipping policies. Many have also complained of how booking an auto through an app often includes additional costs labelled as "tips" or "pick-up fee".

Tough to enforce

However, commuters, who have been dealing with this problem since years, said enforcement would not be easy.

"When was the last time anyone hailed an auto on the road? The sanctity of the meter was lost years ago, and we have become too used to paying much more than what the journey is supposed to cost – be it in normal autos or app-based ones. How many complaints will the authorities be able to take?" asked Geetha S., a resident of Banashankari, who travels by auto every day to work.

The Bengaluru traffic police too had recently intensified their crackdown on autorickshaw drivers violating rules, including overcharging, refusal to ply, and lack of proper documentation. Special teams were formed in all traffic divisions to approach autorickshaw drivers in plain-clothes as customers.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, said that the move followed rising commuter complaints and efforts to streamline public transport services after the curbs on bike taxis. The police have said that repeat offenders would be dealt with seriously and their licences would be seized.

Drivers' demand

On the other hand, autorickshaw drivers have been demanding a fare revision since last year due to the increasing prices of commodities, fuel and inflation. In March this year, a majority of autorickshaw driver unions agreed to revise the minimum fare to ₹40 and ₹20 per every subsequent kilometre. After a fare revision in 2021, the minimum fare stood at ₹30 and ₹15 for every additional kilometre.

NRI's detention: SHRC finds ACP guilty of negligence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has found a woman inspector of police guilty of negligence, which led to a 50-year-old NRI to undergo detention at the Mumbai airport for 34 hours in 2019.

On Friday, the SHRC recommended the State government to pay a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the victim.

It also recommended the government to recover the compensation amount from the salary of Mary Shailaja, who is presently serving as the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of Yeshwantpur subdivision.

Krishnaprasad, an NRI businessman from the U.K., was arrested in a harassment case in 2016 and later released on bail. The police filed a charge sheet against him, and Krishnaprasad obtained a stay order from the Karnataka High Court. On February 19, 2019, Krishnaprasad was detained at the Mumbai airport under a lookout circular (LOC) issued by the Halasuru Gate women police station.

A probe revealed that the circular had to be revised every year, but the police failed to do so. When the immigration officials detained him and informed the police about the detention, instead of clarifying about the order, a team of police was sent to secure his arrest.

The police had even called the family of Krishnaprasad asking them to book the air tickets to take him to Bengaluru. However, after reaching the airport, the police found out about the High Court order and released him asking him to appear before the inspector the next day.

Due to this, Krishnaprasad had not only suffered 34 hours of detention and alleged humiliation, but also incurred a loss of ₹57,000 towards air tickets he had booked for the U.K. Krishnaprasad had to take the next flight after paying ₹66,000 and later approached the SHRC through his family.

The probe by the SHRC revealed that the police had not revised the lookout circular and due to the negligence of the inspector, Krishnaprasad had to suffer harassment and financial loss.

When the immigration officials contacted the Halasuru Gate police for clarification, instead of updating the case details, they sent a mail stating that Krishnaprasad was wanted in connection with the case for the purpose of investigation and should be handed over to head constables, Pushpakaran and Srinivas, for further investigation.

The email was sent from the official mail of ACP Mary Shailaja, which was recorded as the evidence.

The SHRC officials summoned the police, who deposed before the commission that they carried the orders issued by the inspector.

Members of the gender and sexual minority community taking part in the celebrations of 'Rainbow Habba 2025' in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'Rainbow Habba' celebrated in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the gender and sexuality minority community and their supporters celebrated 'Rainbow Habba 2025' at the Students' Christian Movement of India (SCMI) auditorium here on Saturday.

Stonewall Riots

The celebration marked the 56th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

On June 28, 1969, gender and sexuality minorities fought against police harassment and violence at the Stonewall Inn bar in New York City. The event sparked a global movement for gender and sexuality minority rights. Since 2023, Sangama has been hosting the Rainbow Festival every year to commemorate the Stonewall Riots.

Around 200 people took part in the festival. On the occasion, mothers who accepted their transgender children or adopted transgender children were felicitated at the festival. Asha Imam Saab Naik Wadi, mother of Aina Sheikh (a gender minority woman) from Belagavi district, said, "Aina has been living in Pune for many years, and is now doing farming in Belagavi and helping other members of the community." Lakshmi, mother of Paru, who is another gender minority woman from Bengaluru, said, "My youngest son Paru used to act like a girl from a young age and even now Paru is the one who runs our house."

Siddappa Hukkeri from Belagavi, who has got a government job under the 1% reservation, was also felicitated.

Speaking at the event, Mahesh Babu, Managing Director of the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation, emphasised the importance of developing public policies for the holistic development of gender and sexuality minorities.

Manohar Elavarthi, founder and executive director of Sangama, said, "At a time when our communities in the U.S., the birthplace of the Stonewall Riots, are losing hard-won rights, we should stay vigilant."

Innovation key to self-reliant India: Gehlot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, speaking at the launch of the national campaign Innovasthan - a Vichar to Vikas Yatra -here on Saturday, emphasised innovation as the cornerstone for building a self-reliant India and achieving global leadership. Organised by the Council for Industrial and Innovation Research and Jain (Deemed-to-be University), the event highlighted India's rise in the Global Innovation Index from 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023. He said innovation should permeate education, policy, industry, and society, making it a national priority for sustainable development.

'More queer people seeking pre-requisite therapy before gender affirmation surgery'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

In the last five years, queer people and those around them have become much more aware of the nuances of concepts such as gender identity and sexual orientation, according to counsellors and psychiatrists in Bengaluru. However, doctors are coming across more cases of people seeking the mandatory counselling prior to their gender reassignment surgery, rather than those needing help with gender dysphoria, stress, and anxiety associated with it.

While surgery is not done on patients who are aged under 18, those seeking pre-counselling mostly lie in the age group of 16 to 18. FILE PHOTO

While surgery is not done on patients who are aged less than 18 years, those seeking pre-counselling mostly lie in the age group of 16 to 18. "Sexual development begins from the age of 8 to 9 years now, and by the age of 15 to 16 years, we see patients come in for counselling. Since the surgery is possible only after they turn 18, they take psychotherapy until then. In the last one year, we have seen an increase in the number of queer people who seek psychotherapy. We see at least 1 to 3 clients every week now," said Deeksha Chadha, consultant clinical psychologist and assistant professor at Cadabams Group.

Doctors said that it is usually those on the transgender spectrum that come to them. Shashidhar Bilagi, a psychiatrist in Bengaluru, said, "Over the last 5 to 6 years, there has definitely been an increase in the number of people who are coming to us prior to their gender affirmation surgery, as it is a requirement. While they might also go through stress and feel isolated, they do not seek help for those issues."

He said that while the age group of queer people who come for psychotherapy is generally 16 to 18 years, some in their late 20s or early 30s come when they find a partner, and would want to change their gender.

Anxiety, depression, stress, and substance abuse are some of the issues that doctors see among those who suffer from gender dysphoria. Teenagers usually suffer from one of these symptoms, and doctors later discover that they also suffer from gender dysphoria.

"Adolescents come in with anxiety and depression, and in that age group, it is quite common to have those disorders. But if someone has gender identity issues, then they generally develop these symptoms earlier," said John Vijay Sagar, Professor and Head of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS. He also said that a systematic study has to be done to determine if there has been an increase in the number of queer people who seek help.

Doctors collectively said that most queer people might be seeking psychotherapy online or in specific clinics rather than big hospitals or government hospitals due to the stigma associated with queerness in the society.

Parents' acceptance

"If we see 60 young patients who are queer, around 20 to 25 of them are accompanied by their parents. Out of them, around 10 parents accept who their children are and stand by them. The mothers of the children are usually aware of the queerness, but acceptance remains a problem," Dr. Chadha said.

For youngsters coming out as queer, this remains a problem as even those in their close family and friend circle do not provide them enough support through the process. "I felt difficulty in accepting my identity first; it was hard for me because I lost a few friends when I came out as a queer person. ," shared an 18-year-old female student from Bengaluru.

Doctors, however, encourage queer persons to seek help for their mental health rather than just taking the pre-requisite therap. "In Bengaluru, all medical colleges have full-fledged psychiatry departments, and they provide psychotherapy. Today, across most districts of Karnataka, the District Mental Health programmes also offer necessary support," Dr. Bilagi noted.

(With inputs from Eman Syed)

Power shutdown tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has announced a scheduled power outage across several areas on Monday due to essential maintenance work at multiple substations.

According to a Bescom release, the affected areas as follows: Hennur Bande, K. Narayanapura, Bilishivale, Aishwarya Layout, Maruthi Township, Nagaragiri Township, Patel Ramaiah Layout, Anjanappa Layout, Byrathi Cross and Village, Evergreen Layout, Kanakashree Layout, Geddalahalli, Hiremath Layout, Janakiram Layout, Vaddarapalya, Anugraha Layout, Cauvery Layout, Doddagubbi Cross, Kuvempu Layout, Byrathi Bande, Thimme Gowda Layout, Manjunath Nagara, Horamavu, Agra Grama, Lakkamma Layout, St. John Hostel, Tavarekere, BTM Layout 1st Stage, Gurappana Palya, Bannerghatta Road, Cessna Garden and Outer Ring Road, Doddakallasandra, Kanakapura Main Road.

When residents came together to reclaim Puttenahalli lake

V. Dharshini
BENGALURU

In 2008, Puttenahalli lake in J.P. Nagar 7th Phase was gasping for life. Neglected, it was a water body in retreat, surrounded by disinterest. But one woman, and a growing band of residents, decided to push back.

"It cannot be done by one person," said Usha Rajagopalan, founder of the Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT), who was then a writer, not a conservationist. "Even though I may have wanted to save the lake, it is clearly not a one-person job."

That realisation sparked a campaign that has today become a model for community-led ecological restoration. In June 2010, PNLIT was formally registered, not just to revive a lake, but to protect it for generations to come.

The lake had already begun to show signs of rejuvenation, thanks to the support of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), but the founder and three equally determined neighbours – Aarti Mane, Prasanna Vainatheya, and O.P. Ramaswamy – realised that maintenance was where the real test lay. Their first move was a tree plantation drive.

A view of the Puttenahalli lake in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

As many as 125 saplings were planted, and donations went towards hiring a gardener.

"Even today, we are meeting maintenance expenses through voluntary donations. BBMP supports with infrastructure, but we take care of day-to-day work," said Ms. Rajagopalan. Over the years, support from BBMP has fluctuated with administrative changes, and volunteers have come and gone. But the PNLIT team held firm.

The lake now boasts a rich green canopy, is cooler by several degrees, and serves as a stopover for butterflies during migratory season. However, the journey has not been without hurdles. Encroachment and sewage influx remain the two biggest threats. "Sewage is manageable – you can go after the source. But encroachment involves political power, and departments working in silos. It's our biggest challenge," she said. Some of her most cherished memories include seeing the lake overflow for the first time in 2016 and spotting a bay-backed shrike perched on a log planted by volunteers.

Growing with the lake

Many children who planted saplings in 2010 are now young adults. One of them, Aditi, planted a mango tree at the age of five during a tree plantation event held on her birthday. The tree still stands tall today. Aditi recalls walking through it every day on her way to the bus stop, eating snacks by the water, and watching birds. "The lake was also growing with me," she shared.

Jagadeesh, a long-time volunteer and resident, has been part of the lake's journey since its early days. A development professional, He involved his team from Cisco in volunteering efforts. "We did plantation drives, cleaning activities, and even contributed CSR funds. I also brought in funds from our residents' association and about ₹1 lakh was raised," he added.

"We aren't looking to expand to other lakes – this itself is a 24/7 job. But we've inspired others across the city," the founder noted.

In fact, groups managing lakes like Jakkur and Kaikondrahalli have followed suit, some even signing MOUs with BBMP, like PNLIT did in 2011. Ms. Rajagopalan's dream is to see the encroachers rehabilitated and that space developed into something meaningful.

Quiet moment: Student Police Cadets perform yoga at Government Girls High School in Thripunithura in Kerala. THULASI KAKKAT

Shoring up energy: The Marine Drive in Mumbai offers a picturesque venue for a yoga session. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Fun footwork: The Telangana Chamber of Events Industry members perform zumba as part of Yoga Day celebrations in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

Screen distraction: A girl takes a peek at her mobile phone during Yogandhra 2025 celebrations in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU

Poses for posterity: Participants at a mass yoga event in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

ED raids three engineering colleges, seizes ₹1.37 cr. in cash

The agency says there is an extensive network of agents, educational consultancy service entities, which is used to bring students for admission from across India to these institutes

SEAT BLOCKING SCAM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has seized ₹1.37 crore in cash during raids at 17 locations in connection with the alleged seat-blocking scam in private engineering colleges here.

The search operations were conducted on June 25 and 26 under the provisions of Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 by the sleuths at the ED's Bengaluru Zonal Office.

A statement issued by the ED stated, "There is an extensive network of agents, educational consultancy service entities, which is used to bring students for admission from across India to these institutes. The admission in management quota seats is done mostly in an opaque manner based on extraneous considerations such as cash/money."

The searches were conducted on the premises of BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering and Technology, New Horizon College of Engineering and persons associated with these institutions. The sleuths raided the premises of a few entities engaged in educational consultancy services and some private agents associated with the scam, the statement said.

Earlier, the ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) against these institutions. It is alleged that these colleges colluded with unknown persons, obtained the log-in credentials of students registered with KEA, and blocked seats by opting for seats in their college in the names of students who were not actually going to take admission.

The ED said that various incriminating documents related to money laundering activities and other digital devices have been found and seized.

"The search proceedings have revealed evidence with respect to widespread seat blocking and use of cash/money in the admission process in popular professional courses in the private institutes," the statement added.

State govt. freezes seat enhancement of two engineering colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has frozen the engineering seat enhancement of BMS College of Engineering and New Horizon College of Engineering, which were allegedly involved in the seat blocking scam in the year 2024-25.

Both these colleges had submitted a proposal to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for enhancement of 1,020 engineering seats for the academic year 2025-26. The AICTE has given approval for the seats enhancement. However, the State government has not issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for these colleges.

Based on a complaint filed by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), an FIR was registered against BMS College of Engineering, New Horizon College of Engineering and Akash College of Engineering in Bengaluru on the allegations of seat blocking during the admission of engineering courses for the year 2024-25. The police have already submitted a charge sheet to the court in this regard.

However, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) recently conducted searches at these three colleges in connection with the engineering seat blocking scam.

Amid all these developments, BMS College of Engineering submitted a proposal to AICTE for a total of 120 Computer Science (CS) seats enhancement, and New Horizon College and Engineering submitted a request for 240 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 660 CS seats. AICTE has given approval for the seats enhancement. However, for the enhancement of engineering seats, the NOC of the State government concerned is mandatory.

Officials of the Technical Education mentioned that AICTE has cleared the application based on the online submission made by the institutes and considering the documents. Even the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) approved applications for the enhancement or introduction of new courses based on the infrastructure. "The AICTE or the VTU has nothing to do with the police investigation, enquiry, or the scam. But the government has to look at all the angles while giving NOC," the official said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.C. Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister, said, "The police have submitted the charge sheet about the alleged engineering seat blocking scam to the court, and we are studying the same. We will decide on approving the enhancement of seats applied by the colleges only after getting the legal opinion."

"Institutes are only focusing on increasing CS and related courses seats. This is leading to the mushrooming of engineering colleges in tier-1 cities, which will lead to unemployment in the future. Therefore, a new law will be implemented to regulate engineering seats enhancement on the model of the Telangana government," he added.

1,200 students graduate at CMRIT's 22nd convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) celebrated its 22nd graduation day, conferring degrees on 1,200 engineering graduates from the class of 2024-25 across various disciplines on Saturday.

Principal Sanjay Jain in his welcome address highlighted institutional milestones over the past year. Tristha Ramamurthy, provost of CMR University, administered the Graduation Oath.

Chief guest Prashanth Prakash, founder of Accel India and co-founder of Unboxing BLR Foundation, urged graduates to embrace innovation and entrepreneurship, especially in AI-led sectors such as agriculture, defence, and IT, to contribute to a "Viksit Bharat" focused on inclusive growth. Guest of honour K.C. Ramamurthy, chairman of the CMR Group and former Rajya Sabha MP, congratulated graduates and emphasised lifelong learning.

Entrepreneurial student Devesh shared his startup journey. Alumnus Nithin Kushalappa received the Silver Jubilee Alumni Excellence Award for his acclaimed book *Dakshin*.

Participants at the Karnataka Examinations Authority's programme at BMS College of Engineering in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Over 75,000 take part in UGCET Seat Allocation Manthana

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aiming to streamline the admission process for professional courses, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) organised 'UGCET-2025 Seat Allocation Manthana' programme on Saturday at various government engineering colleges across the State, which received an overwhelming response.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar inaugurated the programme at a VTU-affiliated engineering college in Chintamani andinteracted with students and parents, answering questions during the session.

KEA executive director H. Prasanna participated in the event at the Government Engineering College in Hassan. Each participating college had one KEA representative and the necessary technical staff assigned.

Due to the large turnout, multiple sessions were conducted to facilitate smooth participation.

In Bengaluru, the Manthana event was held at BMS, Ambedkar, and SKIT engineering colleges. At BMS College of Engineering alone, more than 10,000 people attended, prompting the use of 19 rooms to conduct simultaneous sessions.

More than 75,000 students and parents directly benefited from this interactive programme.

Mr. Prasanna informed that all the videos used during the Manthana programme would be uploaded to the KEA Vikasana YouTube channel.

Woman booked for killing pet dog in her apartment

Pavi K.R.
BENGALURU

The Mahadevapura police on Saturday booked a 38-year-old woman for allegedly killing her pet dog and torturing two other pets in her apartment. She was found with the highly decomposed carcass of the dog as she was reportedly unaware of how to dispose it of, according to the police.

Based on the complaint filed by Rudresh Kumar, a veterinary doctor, the police charged the accused Triparna Paik under Sections 132 (deals with the assault or criminal force used to deter a public servant from performing their duty), 226 (attempt to commit suicide with the intent to compel or restrain the exercise of lawful power), 325 (commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming, or rendering useless any animal), 271 (negligent acts that are likely to spread infection of a disease dangerous to life), and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the BNS on Thursday.

According to the police, residents complained against Triparna Paik, a resident of Akme Ballet apartment in Doddanekundi, after witnessing alleged acts of animal cruelty. She was staying alone in the apartment along with three pets for many years. The members who overheard the pets crying and howling raised multiple complaints about the poor condition of the animals in her care, including a dog reportedly found dead under suspicious circumstances.

"The stench was unbearable. This is not just cruelty to animals, but also a public nuisance affecting the entire apartment block," said the veterinary doctor in his complaint.

Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, and a part of the inspection team, in her statement said, "It has been two days since the decomposed body of the animal was found in her house. The dog's throat was slit and it is evident that the animal had been starving."

The police have sent the rescued dogs to an animal rehabilitation centre.

Nandini climbs up in 'Brand Finance 2025 Rankings'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

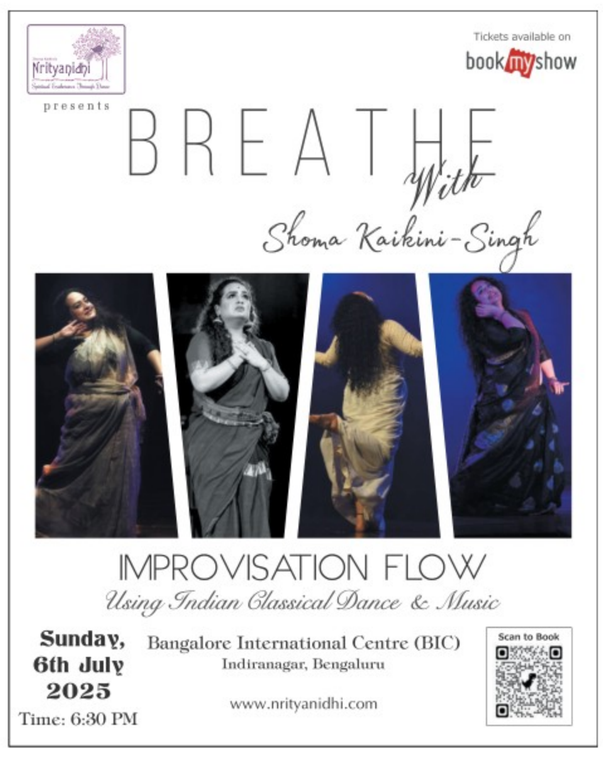
Nandini, the milk and milk products brand marketed by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), has climbed up in the Brand Finance 2025 rankings, moving up from 43rd to 38th position among the top 100 most valued Indian brands.

It has retained the fourth position in the Food and Beverages category

In the Food and Beverages category, Nandini retained its 4th position, following Amul, Mother Dairy-NDDB, and Britannia, and ahead of Dabur, said a release. Brand Finance, the global leader in brand valuation, assesses over 6,000 brands annually using metrics such as brand strength, customer loyalty and market presence.

"Nandini's continued growth highlights its rising brand equity and consumer trust, especially across South India. The brand's performance reflects its strategic positioning and growing prominence in the competitive Indian dairy and FMCG sectors," said the release.

In a statement, B. Shivswamy, Managing Director, KMF, said, "We extend our sincere gratitude to our valued consumers, dedicated farmers, trusted partners, and committed teams. We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering value, nourishment, and reliability."



Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 29
RISE 05:57 SET 18:50
RISE 09:32 SET 22:19

MONDAY, JUN. 30
RISE 05:57 SET 18:50
RISE 10:22 SET 22:57

TUESDAY, JUL. 01
RISE 05:57 SET 18:50
RISE 11:10 SET 23:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	28	23
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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Horse trainer among 3 held for assaulting businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Halasuru police on have arrested a horse trainer and two others for allegedly attacking a 47-year-old businessman to avenge sacking the former from the job.

The accused, identified as Jasbir Singh, his brother Sunny, and his assistant Billa were arrested on the charges of 109(1) (Attempt to commit murder) and 3 (5) (Criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of a common intention) of BNS based on a complaint by the victim. They were later remanded in judicial custody.

According to the police, Suchit Jayaraj Sha, a resident of Mumbai, owned a horse that was used for racing. Sha had employed Jasbir Singh as orse trainer and reportedly sacked him a few months ago over some differences. As Jasbir couldn't find any other job, he allegedly threatened Sha over the same.

On June 21, Sha came to Bengaluru and stayed in a hotel to attend a two-day race event. Jasbir reportedly came to the hotel along with Sunny and Billa to talk to him.

Jasbir called Sha from the hotel reception, asking him to come down for a talk, and allegedly attacked him in the parking lot. While Sunny and Billa allegedly overpowered Sha, Jasbir, armed with a screw driver, allegedly tried to stab him. Sha raised an alarm, prompting the staff to rush to his rescue, following which the trio escaped..

THE HINDU
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Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Seeking sm4 a 32yrs old South Indian Health Care professional working in Canada. A dental surgeon by profession, she has done PG in Health Care Management & Administration from Canada. Looking for a well settled professional in Canada, preferably, Toronto. WhatsApp only: 9441229519(India)

AGE 49 Divorcee Issueless ,Company Secretary. Seeks Suitable Groom. Cast no bar Contact : 9360167989

WELL EDUCATED Hindu boy sought for well educated Chennai based rich Mudaliar girl, Corporate Manager in Chennai, 36 years, earning Rs.30 Lakhs per annum. Contact: Sridhar on +971507744192

ARCHITECT, 34/155, Own Design Practice in Chennai. Smart, Dynamic from an affluent family seeks a professionally qualified and well–educated groom from similar background. Groom should be self–reliant with a distinguished career or from business background preferably based in Chennai. Contact : 7845860950.

COMPATIBLE HINDU boy sought for Pillai BE, MS (USA), 30 years, drawing AED 25,000 monthly in Dubai. Call: +971507744192

25YRS FAIR attractive Fashion Designer reputed MNC 12L/ pa seeks well educated professionally settled groom below 30 preferably Hindu/ Christian from Malayali/ Tamil family with cosmopolitan outlook based in Chennai. Brokers & Matrimony sites excuse. Whatsapp only: 9176520833

US EMPLOYED Groom wanted for 26year girl, MS,Employed in US, Contact inter religious professional parents, Tamilnadu. Whatsapp:9962400898

DIVORCEE

WARM, ATTRACTIVE 37, 159cm, UK–educated (MSc), Dubai–based professional. Progressive, Army family. Seeks mature, compatible partner. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

DOCTOR

FOR 28/165, Fair, Sunni Muslim Urdu MD Doctor Girl Working in TN Govt PHC Chennai Seeking MD/MS Doctor/Surgeon/ IFS / IAS Officer from Tamilnadu Send Profile to doctorali1889@gmail.com

REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

ALLIANCE INVITED from Doctor with PG or any other suitable groom from Mudaliar/Vellallar for our daughter born in Dec 1993 MS General Surgery working in a private hospital Contact 9840104379

DKV Govt. Dr. 29, Aswini, Mesham Father, Mother Govt. Dr. Seeks Doctor Groom Only. Ph: 9443151045.

HINDU TAMIL FC Poosam Kadagam Smart Dr Girl MS ENT 28/163 Chennai seek PG Doctor only Whatsapp 9841679255

DOCTOR, HINDU, 40, issueless divorcee, seeks compatible groom. Ct. 9176289180.

Hindu, 25Y, Doctor Bride doing MS in Chennai Looking for suitable Groom. CNB. CT: 9840301804 / 9677199925

FINANCE / BANKING

SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age : 31, Triupathi. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee : 90001 80420

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Cosmopolitan Beautiful Very rich only daughter 27, Boy should be below 33 from Elite Service like IAS IPS IFS of TN KARNATAKA AP Kerala Cadre or IRS or TN Class I Revenue police officer Judicial Magistrate or Rich Business Family-First Marriage Divorcee widower without child. Send full details to email drpvj5999@gmail.com Phone: 8081104364. Strictly no Brokers.

MALAYALAM

MSC. PHYSICS Nair Girl 161cm / Jan 2000 Star Vishahgam seeks Govt. Job/IT Co. ruckmani68@gmail.com

VELLALA GIRL, 33, Makam, 155, MCA, working as a Software Engineer at IBM, located in Infopark, Ernakulam. Direct alliance preferred. Contact: 9048569041

THE HINDU
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MALAYALAM

WANTED GROOM

Proposal from suitable well educated with good job profile are invited for Latin Catholic girl, 30 years/ 156 Cm, Alappuzha, MBBS Doctor

Contact:
9645990652 & 9539399900

PUNJABI

SM4 29/170CM, NIT Gold Medalist, EdTech Prof., BLR. Bful, slim, simple. Fam. settled Surat/NCR. Seeks Edu., Tall Punjabi match. Call 9374738545

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar girl, Bangalore based, from upper middle class family – fair, slim, 168cm divorced, 40, no kids. BE, MBA. Working with MNC, earning over 40 lakh per annum. Seeking qualified, god fearing Christian groom with no kids, below 45, from established family. Caste no bar. Contact +918296019442.

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM girl 38 yrs, look for suitable employed never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CSI TAMIL, M.Sc,M.Phil., 35Y/149Cm, A.P.,Pvt. Inst.,PY,Seeks Groom,FC/BC, below 38yrs. Ct: 9894677892

CSI NADAR BE 25/162 cm fair VVIP family Chennai seeks equal status boy doing business. Phone: 7550113468

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 30, BE, Private, 50lakhs. Ct 8138901171

RC, ASST Prof. PhD, in Univ. of Madras, Chennai 46/150 cm, brown complexion, upper middle class, divorcee seeks suitable groom. Caste No Bar. Ph: 91766 51411

CHRISTIAN GROOM wanted for a Tamil family bride. The groom's age must be between 27 and 29. Willing to settle overseas. Send full details with photo of the groom. Contact: +65–88142881.Strictly no brokers.

TAMIL MUSLIM Coimbatore native M.com MBA 24/168 lean good look working in Bangalore MNC tax associate seeks God fearing Islam groom working professional Ph 8300040430

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 30, BE, EEE, Private, 1cr, Ct: 7356483111

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, Age 30, MS, MNC, 30 Lakhs. Ct 8138900557

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM** Rowther slim fair 27, B.Sc (Micro Bio) seeks qualified, employed Tamil Muslim Ct: 9344974600

GROOM WANTED, CNB, 30yrs, MBA, Own Schools & Colleges, Educational Institutions in Chennai Ct: 6385293227

HINDU MARUTHUVAR girl 26 yrs (1998) , 165, B.E., slim, fair, 12 LPA. Seeks well–settled professional groom 26–30 yrs. Ph: 99860 16401

HINDU SC AD, 37, BE Software Engineer TCS Chennai, 1.4LPM. Seeks qualified employed grooms. Contact: 9952147216 / 88380 34943

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 34yrs, Divorce, BE, Rich and well Educated background Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 25/162, Perungudi, Chennai. Well–educated girl from an affluent family, currently residing in the USA. Holds an M.S.Ed. in Learning Sciences & Technologies from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania (Ivy League) and a B.S. in Informatics from Indiana University, USA. Presently employed as a Senior Digital Learning Manager at a reputed university in Boston, USA. We are seeking a well–educated, well–mannered, professionally settled bridegroom with clean habits and good character. Preference for candidates who have completed both undergraduate and graduate education from US universities or Ivy League institutions, and are working in or around Boston. Caste no bar. Contact: 9677005235, 7200173185.

SEEKING FOR a 28 year Old Mudaliar Bride working as Assistant Professor in Chennai. CNB. Ct: 9790791872.

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, Age 30, MBA, Private, 6lakhs. Ct 8138900652

CHENNAI–BASED HINDU Divorcee Bride, 35 yrs, 5'4", Graduate, Working (Rs.10 LPA), Caste No Bar, Seeks Divorced/Widowed Groom (Kids Ok). Contact: 8220765305

HINDU, NO caste bar, Age 25, Government, 30lakhs. Ct 8137003548

TAMIL

CASTE NO bar, Hindu or Christian, Age 41,165cm, Good looking completed M.A. Chennai, Watsup 8667761527

SAIVA VELLALAR 28/160 MBBS Govt Job working in Chennai seeks Doctor, Govt employed (or) any equivalent profession. 9487326812, 9380955408

SC (AD), 30yrs, MBBS, Well Educated background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

Velala Mudaliar Thiruvonam/ MTech, MSc (Digital Mktg), MNC, 27/ 5.6/ Fair & cultured well to do family. – Arcot/Vellore . Seeks Elite Bridegroom Contact :– vsvgpal@rediffmail.com / jaydky1970@gmail.com

SC (RC), 27yrs, BE, MBA (UK), Working in UK, Well Educated background, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9962791888

Hindu Arunthathiar (Tamil) 25/158 Rohini, Rishabam M.A., PhD, Assistant Professor, Govt. Job in Tamil Nadu, upper middle class family, Looking for suitable Groom.Contact: 75300-44962.

HINDU AD MD Psychiatry 39/165 divorcee Punarpoosam/ Mithunam seeks groom from same community less than 44. Engineer/ Doctors Ct: 9043700183

HINDU GIRL 28 Fair Pleasing BE (Mech) MS (NUS) 4 years MNC Experience Abroad Seeks Professional Groom Ct : 9363631558.

KALLAR,24,GIRL , BE,working in MNC ,looking for groom. Brokers excuse. Contact whats App 9843055079

HINDU, NADAR, Age 27, MD, Doctor, 6Lakhs Ct: 8138901281

HINDU, SC, Age 28, MBA, Private, 50Lakhs, Ct: 9072777822

HINDU, GOUNDER, Divorced, Age 30, Business, 1 cr, Ct: 8138900498

RICH MUDALIYAR 26yrs BE MBA well Educated Family background in Chennai,Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:6385293227

WARM, BEAUTIFUL, 26, 160cm, polished, UK–raised professional. Affluent Nadar family of doctors. Seeks compatible groom. Call/WA 9345634365

HINDU NADAR, Age:28, B.E.MBA., Salary: 1Lac/per month,Kanni Raasi, Hasthama. Chennai. Ct: 9841274275

THEVAR, 31yrs/164cm, Fair, Civil Servant (UPSC -IRMS (A) / Southern Railway), Native:Tirunelveli, Mother: DRO, Revenue Dept. seeks Groom well educated family from Medical / Civil Servant / Successful entrepreneurs. Caste no bar from equal community. Ct: 9487835626

HINDU GIRL 1999 Born/ from a Affluent family of chennai is looking for a suitable match (080–69129281)

HINDU, DEVANDRAKULA Vellalar, Age 30, Bsc IT, Government, 15 Lakhs Ct 8138900652

HINDU, SC, Age 30, BSc Nursing, Private, 15 Lakhs. Ct 8137003549

CASTE NO Bar, 30yrs, BE, MS (UK), Very Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Cont: 6385293227

NADAR (GRAMINI), 21yrs, MBBS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

38 YRS unmarried Doctor well settled family seeks suitable unmarried Groom. CT: +919360235292

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/ Fair & Good Looking, B.Tech, M.Sc (International Business) doing in Paris, Well settled family, seeks abroad groom. Ct: 8850176287, 8939012419

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 31/165cm, M.S.(Comp.Sci), MNC, SWE, 1800000PA, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom – Job / Business – 9962530015

CHETTIAR (CNB) : 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, B.Tech, CTS, Eng,Chennai, Only daughter, Affluent Famil , Seeks groom – Job / Business – 8925019776

BRAHMIN IYER Girl 27 yrs/155cm BF Tech. NIFT, PG BRM. Italy. Now Chennai Rs.24L PA. Need Suitable Boy. Age below 31 yrs. Sivaraman: 9840153480. Mail: venksiva2015@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED

MUDALIAR, 25 yrs, 165 cms, B.Arch, Lives in Chennai, Father is a Businessman, Upper middle class family. Looking for a like minded match from the same community.

Contact: 9080629216

HINDU DKV, 29yrs, MBBS, DGO, Anusham, Viruchigam seeks suitable Groom - Doctor/ Professional. Ct: 99522 49827 / 98944 00080.

NAIDU 50Y Plus 2 working in a private company seeks suitable groom. Age and caste no bar. Ph: 70925 69171

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IT SENIOR Director, Chennai MNC, Hindu, SC, AD, 39, BE,Veg, Unmarried.Tamil origin, Fluent in Hindi & English.Seeking Hindu, Unmarried,Veg only Bride.Caste No Bar. Mob:7871691025

48 Years /172, Arya Vysya, seeks affluent Bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 9150080187

COSMOPOLITAN

CASTE NO bar. Affluent well known family. Boy, MBA(SPAIN), june, 1995. 187cm. Handsome. Girl should be fair and beautiful. Good upper middle class ok. 9840970170

DIVORCEE

SMART, ACCOMPLISHED, 34, 178cm, US–based Strategy Consultant, Ivy Master's. Seeks compatible partner. Caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

HINDU 37 MBA No encumbrances Bank employee own house seeks bride. Caste no bar. Ct:9789001684/ 9884355456

DOCTOR

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR Couple–Sree Sathya Narayana Hospital, B. Komarapalayam seek Doctor Bride, Well Educated and Compassionate, for their Son–MRCP, 30 yrs, 176 cms, Contact:.+919944955957.

ENGLISH

Wanting a Good Looking, Well Settled God Fearing RCM Bride age between 29-35 yrs, Minimum Qualification Must. Contact:9963548243, 7995731726

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA GROOM 52yrs 174/85 Uthram legally divorced US citizen working Quality Assurance)B.Sc. Nurse, Advocate, Engineer) Direct Contact : 001-9362527821, 917293624061, 919496228957 trustworthyinspection1@gmail.com

NAIR BOY, 34/168cm, Chithira, B.E, Software Engineer MNC Chennai seeks alliance from well educated employed Nair Girls. No Brokers. 9698176671

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, BORN again, Age 25, Private, 30Lakhs. Ct 8138900537

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 33, Private, 15lakhs. Ct 8138900523

CHRISTIAN, BORN Again, age 29, MSc IT, MNC, 1cr, Ct 8138901337

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age, 52, M.Com, Private, 40Lakhs, Ct: 8138900487

54 YRS Christian Issueless Divorcee, clean habits, employed Chennai, seeks Educated employed bride from cultured family. Email: perfectsoulmate2025@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN BOY 1990 born / 177cm/ M.Tech/ Working as Senior Software Engineer/ 90 LPA is looking for a suitable match (080–69129262)

CASTE NO bar. Fair Vishwakarma Male 1979/173, Divorced (Veg) Doctorate / Works in Chennai 9790923086

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor Pvt Eng.Collage, age 52, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC (40–45yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

AD(PR) HINDU TAMIL 04-12-1984 / ASHWINI / 178 CM / M.Sc, M.Phil Lecturer Private Teetotaler Never Married. Only son. Trichy. Seeks suitable Bride. Send BHP to WA 9750978880.

TAMIL HINDU, 55, M.A., 40,000 PM, seeks suitable Bride 35 - 40 years, Caste no bar. Contact: 81109 68581

SENGUNTHA MUDHALIAR, 37/182, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, working at Northrop, USA seeks USA working/ settled Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 99441 64185 (Tamil), 94434 37248(English)

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai 31 years / 180 cms, Anusham, DOB 04.03.1994 BE, MS working in USA Seeking Bride from same / related Community B.E, B.Tech / MS in IT preferred. Contact: 9442162509 / 8870695851

TAMIL YADAV / Others Good looking well natured Girl for a Young Entrepreneur in well settled Family. Contact: 99400 17375/ 90807 20162

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641

MUDHALIYAR, B.E, IT, Sal:1L Age–36, Star:Pooradam, Never married Well settled. Sub caste ok. 7305460763

VISWAKARMA EQV/ Elite, Indust, 26/ 175 /EEE /Pooradam, Preferably Chennai Living, 9360571051, 6369766781

HINDU, BRAHMIN, Age 40, MBA, Business, 30lakhs. Ct 8138900557

HINDU, NAIDU, Age 32, MNC, 10 Lakhs. Ct 8138900312

HINDU NADAR, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9380791999/ 9841329471

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

BC BRIDE For Groom 34 Years BE MBA Central Govt Chennai 95K PM 9444925350, 9884172821 W

30YEARS, 172C.M, B.Tech IIT–M, MBA IIM–K 70Lacs p/a, working in Delhi Mudaliyar, Chennai CNB. 9884642428

HINDU MARAVAR, 43yrs/ 172 cms, Officer, Nationalised Bank lives in Chennai (Divorcee) seeks professionally qualified, good looking Bride from a respectable family. Caste No bar. Parents- Retired Govt. Gazetted officials.Ct:94424 63668/ 70101 74874

MUDALIAR 40/ 173/ Dip EEE/ Settled Bangalore /IT/ 70Kpm/ seeks working or NonWorking Bride 9884024469

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

NADAR, 37 years, Barani, Mesham, M.E., Ph.D, Proffessor, Pvt. University, Chennai, 1 Lakh/pm, Divorcee, without issue seeks suitable Bride. Religion No Bar. Ct: 9443269548, 7598362802

TAMIL MUDALIAR, BE MBA, 35y, 175cm, MNC Consultant, Coimbatore. 15 LPA. Seeks Educated Bride. 9944074364.

HINDU NADAR Age 37, Editior Pvt Channel Chennai, Own Hosue, Seeks Bride. Call: 9894220700 / 8190900067

Tamil Viswakarma BE 18LPA 32/165 cm working in Bangalore Pooratathi, Kumbam seeks suitable bride. Ph: 99404 20406

SM4 HINDU, 56/155cm, Sengunthar, widower, engineer, financially secure, non–vegetarian, non–smoker, seeks homely woman, 40–50, for remarriage. Contact 9514551155 or Ravibalasubra@gmail.com with biodata and photo

HINDU 34YRS/170CM/BE/25LAKHS PA/Sc/ Ayillam. Settled in Bangalore. Family is financially well off and educated. Seeks suitable Bride from same/other caste. Ct:9845401461.

HINDU NADAR, First marriage B. tech, M.S. 42/171 working Canada seeks Bride. Caste no bar. 8148166505.

HINDU REDDIYAR BE MBA 29 yrs fair working in USA , Salary 6000 USD per month seeks suitable bride employed in USA. CNB. Ph: +919445383782

LOOKING FOR RC Nadar Bride for Groom, Ph.D (Chemistry) 29 Years / 167 cm, currently working as Research Associate in a Hong Kong University. Mob: 9444045013

HINDU BOY 1995 Born / MS in Engineering/ Working in USA (Income 4 Cr) is looking for a suitable match kindly call (080–69129267)

HINDU, REDDIAR, Widower, Age 45, MPhil, Government, 7 lakhs. Ct 8138901171

MUDHALIYAR 51/ 170 Doctor Surgeon, Caste No Bar. Only First Marriage. Ct : 9842366613.

HINDU BOY 35 Years / 177cm/ MBBS/ MS / Father and Mother both are doctors are looking for a suitable match (080–69129271)

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 33, CA, Private, 15 Lakhs. Ct 8138900312

HINDU ARNADU Vellalar 40 BE (unmarried) working in abroad. Salary 25 lks per annum. Seeks bride from same or allied caste seeking unmarried / legally divorced / no issues. Contact: 9944569401.

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 29, MBA, Private, 4 Lakhs. Ct 8138900575

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, MBBS, Doctor, 5 Lakhs. Ct 8138900913

CHETTIYAR KADANTHA Maharishi, Rohini 30/172 BE Mech.working in MNC Chennai 14 Lacs PA, Ct: 9789094450

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar,39yrs,B.com, MBA, Divorce, Auditor, Elite business family 9841329471/ 9380791999

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SCA, CASTE NO BAR, Age–38, M.Phil, Govt, 12 Lakhs, Seeks PVT/Govt. well educated bride. Ct:8608377851

VENNIAKULAKSHTRIA GROOM Age 43yrs / 182cm (Divorcee short lived, no issues) BE, MBA(UK) Working IT company Chennai 15 la / P.A Ct: 9944928521 / 9487935521.

HINDU BC, Sozhia Vellalar. 31/180cm, B.E., / Barani, Mesham, IT Pvt. Co at Bangalore, Rs.80,000 pm, Native Trichy, Wanted Suitable Female. Contact : 98945 25554, 94430 44292.

IYENGAR ADVOCATE, 32yrs, 5'11" BBA LLB–HON's Sastra University Completing(AOL)Practicing in Delhi–HC/ SC. Seeking qualified working bride. Ct 9841009174. Mail: gmh27d@gmail.com

INTELLIGENT, HANDSOME 29, 170cm, well–educated professional (MEng), EU citizen (Paris). Loving Tamil/ Telugu family. Seeking compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

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83 BORN iyengar 24LPA seeks any brahmin bride unmarried or divorcees without issues Pure veg equal community also welcome. 97909 83101

HINDU, BRAHMIN, Age 27, MS, MNC, $1.5L, Ct: 8138900547

TAMIL IYER GROOM, 44, MBA, unmarried, Clean Habits, Only Child, Captain Merchant Navy, Maritime College Associate, seeks any suitable brahmin girl – 9894392018

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

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RC Catholic, Bank officer, Divorcee, Working in Chennai, seeks suitable Bride. Contact: 75501 05368.

IYER TAMIL, BA Sanskrit, 35/177cm, Bharatwaja, Dhanusu, Pooradam, Salary: 80,000 PM. seeks any Brahmin Bride (Age : 27-33) Ph: 93440 37750

Hindu 58years 165cm Central Govt JE 1.10 Lak PM never Married own House. Seeks Educated Divorce or widow. Contact: +91 8778630870

Smart / Sep 95 /180 cm, M Tech Professional/ Affluent Pillai Family seeks Educated Bride/ e-mail : cbechn1995@gmail.com

Looking for a well Educated Beautiful Yadava Girl, for a well settled Yadava Boy, BE, 29/176cm, Employed in a Senior position. Contact: 94443 25069

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 32yrs, M.Tech, well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

NAIDU 29/175 Thiruvathirai B.Sc Working in AGS office Chennai, seeks suitable Educated working Bride Ct 8248042840 / 9841095644.

AGE 45 MCA Sadhayam,Kumbha rasi Fair Software Engineer seeks suitable Bride, caste no bar. PH: 9894670293

NAIDU 30/180 Handsome, MS, Senior Manager, Google, 6000000 PA, Elite,70.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

SMU, 27/179CM, BCA, working in IT 5L p.a.Looking for bride, working graduate within Chennai. 9840190182

SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu boy 27/170, B.Tech (Mech) Design Engineer MNC Chennai,9LPA well to do family Seeks Fair Bride Ct 7373731451 / 7708369169

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BRAHMIN, 29, 178 cms, MBA, Management Professional. Lives in Mumbai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Tamil Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 33, 178 cms, PhD, Software Professional. Lives in US. Parents are Working Professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community from US. Contact: 6366448343

KONG VELLALA GOUNDER, 26, 180 cms, MS(UK), Businessman. Lives in Erode. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 32, 173 cms, B.E/MBA (UK), Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 42, 173 cms, Divorced, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from any similar community from any location. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 26, 168 cms, MS. Lives in Australia. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

EZHAVA, 24, 157 cms, BE CS, Software Professional. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from India (Metro Cities), UAE and Singapore. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 34, 160 cms, PhD, Working Professional. Lives in UK. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for like minded match from any Brahmin community. Location UK, or any European Countries. Contact: 6366448343

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DIVORCEE

SUBBIAH, SAIVA Pillai, 30, 172CM, Divorced B.E, IT Prof., Chennai Seeks veg, edu bride, 9987455657

DOCTOR

NEUROSURGEON 28/174 handsome, smart, slim.Own hospital Chennai. Well settled. No bad habits. Tamil & English. Naidu. Caste no bar. Seeks cultured affluent Dr–girl.WA 9500112878

HINDU NADAR 27/177 Cm MBBS MS 40 bedded own hospital, fair seeks doctor bride. Phone: 98841 88849

BRIDES WANTED

SOUTH INDIAN Vegetarian MBBS Doctor serving in IAF, Oct 1997 born 169 cms Mougalya Gothram, Rohini Star, Rishaba Rasi. Seeks Vegetarian Medical Professional Girl preferably a Doctor

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94420 63443 / 90039 42248

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NAIR, 35/181CM, Divorcee, Short Live, M.Tech., MNC Chennai, Rs.20 Lakhs/ PA. CNB. seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 99403 85403

NAIR YOUTH 47/182 issueless divorce M.Tech MBA working MNC Kochi Petroleum company financially sound liability will also be considered. 9633001187

NAIR ERANAKULAM 13–12–89/168 Thiruvathira B.Tech Manager Scale–2 Canara bank Manipal Ct Father 7012087429

NRI

CHENNAI–BSD URDU Dr seeks for MS son in US, Green Card fair H'some, 34/173 cm, Sr Prof'nl in top MNC, Div–no issues, A prof'nl Girl, 26–31 yrs, fair slim b'ful. fmly–oriented Non–hijabi, wrkg in US. Whatsapp: 9551625910.

TAMIL

RICH MUDALIYAR, 45yrs, Divorce, BE, MS (US), Industrialist in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar, Rishabam,38/165,BE SWE,MNC Chicago USA,1L USD/A,Seeks working SWE. 9487624807

SMARTHADESASTHA BRAHMIN groom 43yrs, 174cm fair Senior Software Engineer in MNC Hyderabad. Well settled. Looking for good looking bride graduate, employed/unemployed Age difference 5 to 6 yrs, Any brahmin subsect. Contact Nos 9440440774 / 6304557912 Whatsapp No. 9440440774

MUDALIAR 29 M.Tech 20Lacs P. A,178cm Smart Look well settled family seeks bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU / Intercaste/Tamil / FC /29/ ME / Govt.Employed / NV/Seeks Doc / Govt/PSU FC BC Brides :9443202585

TAMIL

27 Years, CSI Nadar, Chennai based Hardware Engineer looking for a well Qualified, well settled Groom from decent, Educated Family.Ct- 9840691230

Hindu Mudaliar Girl, 29yrs, M.L.Legal Manager, ICICI - Chennai, seeks Handsome, well Educated suitable Groom. Contact: 8682021009 / 87544 01199.

TELUGU

HINDU NAIDU, 34/5'5", BE, MBA, Sadhyam Kumbham, Fair, good looking Chennai girl for remarriage short lived, Seeks Groom from India/ Abroad, CNB. Contact: 9344709905/ 9500009694

TELUGU CHETTIYAR, 25yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 6385293227

NAIDU 26/162 Fair Beautiful BE IT Pro–Manager Google 3200000PA Elite-Family 50Cr CNB. 9043991629,9043987029

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, MBBS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU, DIVORCEE 47/153 Fair Manager Seeks Educated, Employed Groom in Chennai Only. ps7193326@gmail.com

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NAIDU, 91 Born, Magam / Simham. Dr. Bride. MBBS, MD, Chennai, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom & good Family Backround. Ct: 80722 14843.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIMAH Age 50, never married Chennai. Seeks practicing Muslim Man age 50–55 Marriage is solely for companionship whatsapp:6385852996

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BENGALURU BRANCH OFFICE

APPEAL TO INDUSTRIES

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VII) Online portal for application for ISI mark license **www.manakonline.in**
VIII) Link for OTR registration Portal-Scheme-X: **https://www.bis.gov.in/scheme-x-certification/registration-portal-otr/**

Sr. No.	Ministry/ Department	Product		Indian Standard	Enforcement date
1	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	Beds		IS 17635:2022	14-Feb-26
2	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	Bunk Beds		IS 17636:2022	14-Feb-26
3	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear Part 5 Control Circuit Devices and Switching Elements Section 5 Electrical emergency stop devices with mechanical latching function	All devices with button type actuator	IS/IEC 60947 : Part 5 : Sec 5 : 2016	10-May-25
			All devices with all types of actuator		10-May-26
4	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear Part 5 Control Circuit Devices and Switching Elements Section 1 Electromechanical Control Circuit Devices (Second Revision)	All AC utilization categories Upto 440V AC (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 : Part 5 : Sec 1 : 2016	10-May-25
			All AC utilization categories Upto 440V AC (With EMC)		10-May-26
			All AC utilization categories Above 440V AC		10-May-26
			All DC utilization categories, All DC ratings		10-May-27
5	Department of Heavy Industry	Low – Voltage switchgear and controlgear: Part 2 circuit – Breakers	AC Circuit – Breakers (Category A)- All ratings upto 630 A, upto 440V AC (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-24
			AC Circuit – Breakers (Category A)- All ratings upto 630 A, upto 440V AC (With EMC)	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-26
			AC Circuit- Breakers (Category – A)- All ratings above 630A, upto 440V AC (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-25
			AC Circuit – Breakers (Category – A)- All ratings above 630A, upto 440V AC (With EMC)	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-26
			AC Circuit Breakers (Category – B)- All ratings upto 2000 A, upto 440V AC (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-25
6	Department of Heavy Industry	Low – Voltage switchgear and controlgear: Part 2 circuit – Breakers	AC Circuit Breakers (Category – B)- All ratings upto 2000 A, upto 440V AC (With EMC)	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-26
			AC Circuit – Breakers (Category – A)- All ratings, above 440V AC	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-26
			AC Circuit – Breakers (Category- B)- ratings above 2000A, Upto 440V AC	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-26
			AC Circuit – Breakers (Category -B)- All ratings, above 440V AC	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-27
			DC Circuit – Breakers (Category – A) All ratings	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-27
			DC Circuit – Breakers (Category -B) All ratings	IS/IEC 60947 :Part 2 : 2016	10-May-27
7	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear Part 3 Switches, Disconnectors, Switch Disconnectors and Fuse- Combination Units (Second Revision)	All AC utilization categories Upto 250A, Upto 440V AC (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 : Part 3 : 2020	10-May-25
			All AC utilization categories Upto 250A, Upto 440V AC (With EMC)		10-May-26
			All AC utilization categories Upto 630 A, Upto 440V AC		10-May-26
			All AC utilization categories Above 630 A, Upto 440V AC		10-May-27
			All AC utilization categories All ratings, above 440V AC		10-May-28
			All DC utilization categories, All rating		10-May-28
8	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Low-Voltage Switchgear and Controlgear Part 4 Contactors and Motor-Starters Section 1 Electromechanical Contactors and Motor-Starters (Second Revision)	Contactor -All AC utilization categories Upto 32A (All test other than Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC))	IS/IEC 60947 : Part 4 : Sec 1 : 2018	10-May-25
			Contactor -All AC utilization categories Upto 32A (With EMC)		10-May-26
			Contactor -All AC utilization categories, above 32A		10-May-26
			Starter- All AC utilization categories direct-on-line a.c. starter		10-May-27
			Starter- All AC utilization categories. All other Starters		10-May-28
			All DC utilization categories. All DC ratings		10-May-28

For further enquires please contact BIS Bangalore Branch Office.
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Email Address: bnbo@bis.gov.in Phone: 080-28398860

Three key accused arrested in M.M. Hills tiger killing case

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In a major breakthrough in the ongoing investigation into the death of five tigers in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, forest officials have arrested three persons who were allegedly directly involved in the case.

The accused were identified as Konappa, Madaraja, and Nagaraj of Koppa village.

The officials said that based on credible information, five persons were taken into custody and interrogated, following which it transpired that the three were directly involved in poisoning the tigers.

One of the five tigers that was found dead in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

The three accused have been arrested under the relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Indian Forest Act, 1969. The Forest Department produced the three before the jurisdictional magistrate and initiated further legal action.

Meanwhile, sources in the department said the viscera of the carcass collected by the veterinarians have been sent to forensic laboratories in Bengaluru and Mysuru for independent corroboration of the kind of poison used, while one set of sample has been sent to the Mysuru zoo for storage just in case it was required for future analysis.

Locals helped

The arrest of the three followed an important lead that the department received on Friday evening, following which five persons were questioned, and it led to the arrest of those involved in tiger poisoning. Sources said a few locals helped identify the owner of the cow which was killed by the tiger leading to the trail.

Senior officials said while the investigations into the case would go on, the high-level committee constituted by the State government would take up related systemic issues such as inadequate patrolling, staff shortages, and gaps in field monitoring, lack of resources, if any, whether the incident could have been prevented etc.

Kumar Pushkar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration and Coordination), who is heading the State-constituted probe committee, said it is a case of "retaliatory killing" over tiger hunting the cattle that belonged to the accused.

Sources said the department compensates for cattle killed by carnivores outside forest boundaries, but the compensation is denied in case the kill occurs within a sanctuary or national park, where cattle grazing is illegal. But compensation is sometimes extended in such cases to ensure local cooperation in conservation efforts. Hence, this has left the authorities puzzled about the motive of Madaraja and his associates.

Pesticide trail led to the accused

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department probing the death of five tigers in the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary pieced together a few crucial evidence that led them to the accused.

The team probing the case first zeroed in on the cattle kill and traced the owner.

This was initially difficult to come by as locals had no clue about the ownership. But an informant tipped off the team, which zeroed in on a farmer, Shivanne Gowda, and four others, and questioned them.

Farm fields scoured

In the meantime, the investigating team scoured the agricultural fields near the scene of the crime, and it transpired that there was marigold cultivation in the area. It was also speculated that pesticide or insecticide was used to lace the cattle kill, devouring which the tigers died.

Hence, dealers in fertilizer and agricultural specialists were consulted to ascertain which brand is preferred by farmers cultivating marigold. On identifying a few commonly used brands, the investigating team questioned the cattle owner who was in possession of the same brand of pesticide.

Confronted with evidence, Shivanne Gowda confessed to his role in the crime. But to mislead the team, he allegedly took the blame on himself. The weam, which was not convinced, interrogated him further, which led to his son Madaraja, who is the accused, and two of his accomplices.

There will be no hasty decision on minimum wage hike proposal: DKS

Dy. CM says he advised the Labour Minister not to take any immediate decision on it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposed revision of minimum wages across scheduled employment in Karnataka, the draft of which was notified recently, would not move forward without the consent of the Chief Minister and himself, said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday.

Mr. Shivakumar said he had advised Labour Minister Santosh Lad not to take any immediate decision on the minimum wage hike proposal, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Karnataka Small-Scale Industries Association's (KASSIA's) Centre of Excellence and Innovation and International Exhibition Centre at Dobbespet, on the city outskirts.

Meet all Ministers

He also urged the office-bearers of all trade bodies in the State to take a delegation to meet Cabinet Ministers, explain the issues and garner their support, and hold discussions with

D.K. Shivakumar

stakeholders. The proposed hike in minimum wages, as per the draft notification, is around 70% of the existing wages, including variable dearness wages, and it comes at a time when price rise has affected lakhs of families. As per the draft, the salary will range from ₹19,319.36 for unskilled labourers in zone 3 to a maximum of ₹34,225.42 for highly skilled employees in thermal stations. Across industries in zone 1, the proposed monthly minimum wage for a highly skilled worker is ₹31,114.02.

This has been welcomed by labour unions, while industrialists and trade bodies have been protesting this move, arguing it will lead to skyrocketing of labour costs. Speaking on the proposal, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We have lakhs of labourers working in several industries here and do not want any flight of capital. Many of these employees are on temporary jobs. The government cannot absorb them all."

He said the State would stop any effort to shift industries from Karnataka to other States, particularly Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. Small-scale industries, in particular, have expressed concern over the proposed hike and contended that it would make the labour of the State costliest, which would prompt industries to relocate to States like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, or Andhra Pradesh, where labour is cheaper.

Dig at banks

Taking a dig at the banking sector, Mr. Shivakumar said the Union government had announced a non-collateral loan facility for MSMEs, but entrepreneurs were not getting the required support as banks were still insisting on collateral, although some businesses were able to get loans based on their performance.

"Despite the non-collateral schemes, banks are unwilling, and it only increases the struggles of the MSMEs," he noted.

Mr. Shivakumar reiterated that a separate Ministry would be set up for small-scale industries as per the directions of the Chief Minister, which would work as a single window to ensure quick clearance of projects and support the sector.

Centre of excellence

KASSIA, which is celebrating its 75th year, has invested over ₹32 crore to develop the Centre of Excellence and Innovation and Exhibition Centre, on 4.5 acres of land at the industrial cluster at Dobbespet. The new facility comprises a centre for enterprise development, an international exhibition centre, a common tool room, an international marketing centre, an R&D testing centre, and a facility for green initiatives.

Centre ratifies suspension of three IPS officers in stadium stampede case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two weeks after the State government suspended three senior IPS officers, including the then Bengaluru Police Commissioner, an Additional Commissioner of Police and a Deputy Commissioner of Police for failing to act on the stampede at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Union government on Saturday accorded the suspension of the three IPS officers – B. Dayananda, Vikas Kumar and Shekhar H.T., upholding the government decision.

B. Dayananda FILE PHOTO

As many as 11 people were killed and over 65 people, including policemen, were injured during the chaos that broke out during the victory celebrations of the RCB team on June 4.

The suspension report was earlier submitted by the Karnataka government to the Centre for approval, which has now formally endorsed the action. The Centre has conveyed its approval to the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, thereby reinforcing the State's move.

With the Central government's approval, the ongoing probe into the stampede incident will be expedited to frame charges against the officers for further disciplinary action.

Terming it as a normal procedure, a senior police officer said the Central government, as part of the all-India service rules by the Department of Personnel and Training, has ratified the order. "Suspension is not punishment, but a restraint order to enable inquiry to ascertain whether the suspended officials are guilty or not," the officer said.

However, the decision has not only put the careers of the suspended officials on hold, but also embarrassed the State BJP leaders who protested against the government's decision, alleging that the suspension was to shift the blame on the officials to cover up the government's failure.

This Mysuru Dasara to be a 11-day affair

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a rare instance, the world famous Mysuru Dasara will be celebrated for 11 days this year, as against the usual 10 days. Dasara has been celebrated for 11 days on eight occasions earlier.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who heads the high-powered committee to oversee the festival celebrations, told officials of Public Works, Energy, Home, and other departments to make all preparations in advance to conduct the festival on a grand scale from September 22 to October 2.

On preparations: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the media after a high-powered committee meeting on Dasara celebrations, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Grand celebrations

As the State has received bountiful rains, the festival would be celebrated grandly, Mr. Siddaramaiah said. As Vijayadashami this year falls on Gandhi Jayanti, the Chief Minister instructed the executive committee that the procession of tableaus should focus on Gandhian values.

According to tradition, Navaratri starts the day after the Mahalaya Amavasya, which this year falls on September 21. Hence, Navaratri would begin on September 22. However, with Panchami falling on two consecutive days (September 26 and 27) in the lunar calendar, the festival stretches to 10 nights and 11 days.

The Gajapayana will commence on August 4, and Dasara celebrations will be inaugurated on September 22 atop the Chamundi Hills.

The meeting was attended by Ministers, MLAs, and senior officials, and the Chief Minister told the police to be civil in crowd management and take steps to avoid any stampede during the festival. The Chief Minister said about 10 lakh people/tourists are expected to attend this year's festival.

Who is to inaugurate

On inviting a special guest to inaugurate the festival, the Chief Minister said party leaders Pushpa Amarnath suggested a woman should inaugurate the festival this year, while some others suggested inviting a person who practices Gandhian principles. He would decide the guest in the next 15 days, the Chief Minister said. The Energy Department has been told to illuminate the city of Mysuru for 22 days. The PWD officials were told to spruce up all roads in and around Mysuru.

A sum of ₹40 crore was spent on conducting various events during last year's Dasara.

Report sought on caterpillar infestation in coconut trees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Director of the Horticulture Department to immediately obtain a report from experts on widespread infestation of black-headed caterpillars in coconut plantations in Karnataka.

The Chief Minister sought the report following a petition submitted by Dinesh Gooli Gowda, MLC.

The spread of black-headed caterpillar (Opisina arenosella) infestation has put farmers in severe distress. The pest has been severely damaging coconut palms, which has resulted in decline in yield, leading to rise in coconut price.

Coconut is a key commercial crop grown in several districts in Karnataka.

Lynching in Mangaluru: Report seeks CID probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two months into the mob lynching of Mohammed Ashraf, a rag picker from Kerala at Kudupu, Mangaluru, People's Union for Civil Liberties-Karnataka, All-India Lawyers Association for Justice-Karnataka, and the Association for Protection of Civil Rights-Karnataka have jointly released a fact-finding report on the incident.

The report, titled 'Lost fraternity: A mob lynching in broad daylight', has alleged failure on the part of the State administration in ensuring impartial investigations into incidents wherein the oppressed community members were the victims.

Crime spot: The ground at Kudupu near Mangaluru, where 35-year-old Mohammed Ashraf was lynched on April 27.

The organisations have demanded the transfer of the investigation to the CID, appointment of a special public prosecutor, and compensation to the victim's family.

'Failure of State'

Releasing the report at the Press Club of Bangalore, Mavalli Sankar, State convener, DSS - Ambedkarvaada, said, "In such cases, it is important that officials and elected representatives visit at least the family of the victims to inspire public trust in the rule of law. It has happened neither in the case of Ashraf nor after the incident in which a Dalit at Kattarghatta was killed."

Ashwini K.P., U.N. special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, reminded that, given India is a signatory to the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, the State is duty-bound to eliminate hate that leads to violence. Noting that the media has played a key role in communalising the Pahalgam attack and Muslims have been increasingly villainised following it, she stressed on the need to report responsibly.

A hate crime

Maitreyi Krishnan, president of All India Lawyers Association for Justice, noted that the lynching incident was not a mere murder, but a hate crime.

"It is an attack on the values of the Constitution. The police officials who delayed the registration of the FIR did not follow the Supreme Court guidelines on mob lynching," she said, demanding disciplinary action against the police officials.

Advocate Vinay Sreenivasa demanded that the State administration organise a meeting with civil society groups on how best to uphold law and order.

He expressed concerns over the government's plans to introduce new laws to counter hate and fake news, as well as establish the Special Action Force, while, according to him, it has failed to enforce the existing laws.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Ms. M. S. Ramesh, IAS (Retd.),

Passed away on June 28, 2025 at 1:00 AM, leaving behind her sister M. Revathy Sriram, sister-in-law Dr. Sarala Rajajee, nephew Dr. R. Venkatakrishna, Niece Varsha

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For Online Education UG & PG Programmes (Courses)
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Govt. of Uttarakhand | देवभूमि रजत उत्सव

Organic products of Uttarakhand
are now the first choice of the world

Under the bold and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are committed to the idea of inclusive development while harnessing our nation's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Our foremost aim to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where every individual can contribute meaningfully to national prosperity and welfare.

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

The construction of a developed India for the 21st century rests primarily on two pillars fristly, pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort that is being made towards development. Today, both these pillars are being strengthened by the state of Uttarakhand. This decade surely will be the decade of Uttarakhand.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

HOUSE OF HIMALAYAS

VIKSHIT BHARAT SHASHAKT UTTARAKHAND

House of Himalayas Provides global market to local products

Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is promoting the advanced products of the hilly areas. Along with this, many initiatives have also been started for their marketing. The launch of 'House of Himalayas' is an important step in this direction. Under this, high quality products of Uttarakhand have been prepared according to the markets of the country and the world. These have emerged as a major brand of products from the hilly region of Uttarakhand.

During the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'umbrella brand' named 'House of Himalayas' along with other multimillion projects. Now, products manufactured by local groups will be marketed under the unified name 'House of Himalayas', focusing on quality and packaging. This innovative initiative aims to promote Uttarakhand's local products globally. Known previously as Himadri, Hilans, and Gramya-Shri, these products will now collectively shine under the brand 'House of Himalayas', showcasing the wonders of the region to the world. This step is a significant move to make Uttarakhand's products vocal for local and take them from local markets to the global stage. Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttarakhand government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is promoting the advanced products of the hilly areas. Along with this, many initiatives have also been started for their marketing. The launch of 'House of Himalayas' is an important step in this direction. Under this, high quality products of Uttarakhand have been prepared according to the markets of the country and the world. These have emerged as a major brand of products from the hilly region of Uttarakhand.

Why is the House of Himalayas so special?

The Assurance of Authenticity: Products created under this initiative truly honour an array of traditional methods and authentic experiences. They reach consumers only after going through high-quality standards. Further, certificates are also issued to confirm their premium quality.

A Commitment Towards The Community: Choosing the House of Himalayas means supporting local communities through truly meaningful social initiatives. With every product you purchase, you contribute socially and economically.

The Idea of Open Sourcing: This initiative emphasizes complete transparency in the sourcing of materials and production processes, maintaining consumer trust.

Emphasizing on Ethical Priority: The brand embraces ethical sourcing and improved production practices that are widely appreciated for their integrity.

Enhanced Brand Experience: By including comprehensive product information, attention to every detail, and delivering superior products, the brand ensures a memorable experience for every customer.

House of Himalayas

Superior Quality

The product line-up at the House of Himalayas are truly exceptional, known for their unmatched quality and superior effectiveness. This exceptional distinction sets them apart from mass-produced alternatives available in the market.

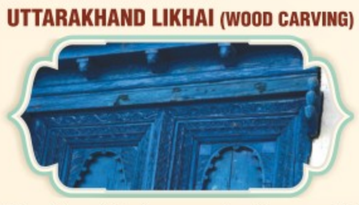
BHOTIYA DAAN OF UTTARAKHAND

It is a traditional handwoven carpet made by the Bhotiya community in Uttarakhand. These carpets are known for their warmth, durability, and intricate designs.

Uttarakhand Thulma

Thulma blanket are handwoven by the Bhotiya community in Uttarakhand using sheep or yak wool. These blankets are known for their warmth & durability.

UTTARAKHAND LIKHAI (WOOD CARVING)



Uttarakhand is famous for its exquisite wood carvings seen in architectural elements, furniture, and decorative items. Skilled artisans intricately carve wood to create beautiful designs and motifs.

UTTARAKHAND BITHCU BUTI

Nettle fibre is used to create a range of products, including fabrics, bags, and ropes. The nettle plant is abundant in the region, and its fibre is valued for its strength and eco-friendliness.

Traditional Products of Devbhoomi awarded with special GI tag

Geographical Indication (GI) Crafts Products

A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In other words, it is a certification that identifies a product as originating from a particular region, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the product is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.

The following craft products of Uttarakhand have been awarded GI tag by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India:

NAINITAL MOOMBATTI (CANDLE)

Uttarakhand is known for its artistic candles crafted in various shapes, sizes, and colors. These candles often reflect the region's cultural motifs and symbols.

RANGWALI PICHORA OF KUMAON

Rangwali Pichora is a traditional craft involving the creation of colorful hand printed/handwoven cotton/silk/woollen shawls. The designs and patterns showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Kumaon region.

UTTARAKHAND AIPAN

Aipan is a traditional folkart form involving the creation of intricate geometric patterns using rice paste or chalk. It's usually seen on floors, walls, or courtyards during religious and cultural ceremonies.

UTTARAKHAND TAMTA PRODUCTS

Artisans in Uttarakhand craft various items like utensils, decorative pieces, and religious artifacts using copper. These items are known for their intricate designs and durability.

CHAMOLI WOODEN RAMAAN MASK

Ramaan masks are carved from wood and used in traditional folk dances and cultural performances. These masks often represent deities, animals, or

UTTARAKHAND RINGAAL CRAFT

Ringaal products are crafted from a type of local grass called 'Ringaal.' Artisans use it to create items like mats, baskets, and ropes due to its strength and flexibility.

ODOP With the One District-Two Product

ONE DISTRICT TWO PRODUCTS UTTARAKHAND

Scheme, Uttarakhand's products are attracting the world

District	Product-1	Product-2
Almora	Ball Mithai	Tweed
Bageshwar	Copper Products	Kiwi Products
Chamoli	Handloom Products	Rose Water
Haridwar	Jaggery	Honey
Champawat	Iron Based Products	Honey
Dehradun	Bakery Products	Mushroom
Rudraprayag	Temple Imitation	Cholai Products
Nainital	Aipan Craft	Fruit Processing
Pauri	Wooden Craft	Herbal Products
Udhamsingh Nagar	Mentha Oil	Moonj Grass Products
Uttarkashi	Red Rice	Apple Products
Pithoragarh	Woolen Carpets	Munsyari Rajma
Tehri	Paneer	Tehri Nath

Uttarakhand's Crafts & Organic Products from Local to Global

Tourists should spend 5% of their travel spending on local products: Prime Minister

To achieve the goal of self-reliant country Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken of Vocal for local. With the aim of promoting local products, One District-One Product Scheme has been started by the Government of India.

Uttarakhand Government has taken this scheme forward as "One District Two Products" under the leadship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

Programme done in Mana Village near Badrinath Dhaam Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appealed to the people of the country to spend 5% of their travelled spending on Local Products.

Due to this tremendous step, a big change will be seen in local economy.

Any region is identified by its local language & products. Efforts should be made to promote them.

Issued in Public Interest by Department of Information & Public Relations, Uttarakhand
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Kerala to go ahead with the decision to introduce Zumba

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Zumba dance training at a school in Kerala as part of the government's initiative.

Kerala's Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said the government will go ahead with the decision to provide Zumba classes in schools at all costs.

Responding to the recent allegations made by some Muslim outfits, who are against the introduction of Zumba in schools on the grounds that it is against their religious beliefs and culture, the Minister said here on Saturday that the government was open to talks.

"No one has asked the children to wear skimpy clothes while performing Zumba. They will be wearing their school uniforms. Participating in the educational activities prescribed by the government is mandatory. The guardians have no choice in the matter," the Minister told pressspersons here on Saturday.

'Nurture communalism'

Activities such as Zumba, aerobics, and yoga are being introduced in schools as part of an anti-drug campaign. The opposition could be more harmful than drugs. Instead of improving the education sector, it will only nurture communalism and separatism, the Minister said.

He said that sportspersons from different countries take part in sports events such as Olympics in the prescribed dress code. What is happening in the schools is a light exercise and the children will be wearing their uniforms, he added.

Mr. Sivankutty said that progressive organisations in the country had stood with the Muslim community during issues such as the 'hijab row,' as they believed in democratic values. But the stand taken by some organisations against Zumba will turn out in support of majority communalism. Explaining the benefits of children engaging in physical activities, he said it would be beneficial to them mentally and physically.

Inaugurating the MLA Merit Award-2025 in Alappuzha on the same day, Speaker A.N. Shamseer called those opposing Zumba ignorant. "Islam is a highly progressive religion. It is a few orthodox scholars, cloaked in the attire of Islam, who are voicing opposition. We should not give in to their demands. I will stand firmly behind Education Minister V. Sivankutty on the matter," the Speaker said.

Turmeric Board HQ to be opened in Nizamabad today

Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmapuri says the Board will spearhead a variety of transformative initiatives, including research and development into turmeric varieties and cultivation techniques

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

The agriculture market yard in Nizamabad district, which is one of the largest producers of turmeric in India. NAGARA GOPAL

The headquarters of the National Turmeric Board will be formally inaugurated in Nizamabad by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday, fulfilling a demand that shaped the politics of Nizamabad district in Telangana involving two prominent politicians.

The ceremony will feature the unveiling of the official logo of the Board, symbolising a new era of farmer innovation and global competitiveness. Earlier this month, Mr. Shah was invited by Arvind Dharmapuri, Nizamabad MP, and National Turmeric Board Chairperson Palle Ganga Reddy.

The event holds a significant political hue as the issue in 2019 led to the defeat of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) candidate K. Kavitha in Nizambad when her father K. Chandrashekhar Rao was the Chief Minister of Telangana.

The country's focus turned to the BJP candidate Arvind Dharmapuri, who was a first-time contestant and that too from a seat which the BJP had never won.

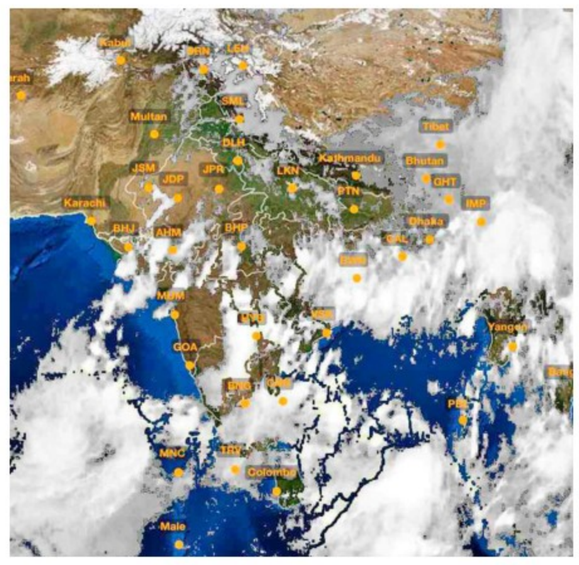
Mr. Dharmapuri's father was a Congress stalwart, having served as the PCC chief and later as MP from the BRS. His contesting on BJP ticket itself was a huge shock.

His promise to establish a Turmeric Board – reinforced by a signed bond paper he distributed to turmeric farmers – had a significant impact on the campaign. Though delayed by a few years, the long-cherished dream of the turmeric farmers is now being realised.

Mr. Dharmapuri said the Board was expected to spearhead a variety of transformative initiatives, including research and development into turmeric varieties and cultivation techniques. Support for farmers through cooperatives, capacity building, and better market access will increase.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura,West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.3	34.0	26.6	Kozhikode	14	28.5	24.4
Ahmedabad	2	31.3	25.9	Kurnool	—	36.6	26.3
Aizawl	—	33.7	22.3	Lucknow	—	38.9	28.6
Allahabad	5	30.0	27.0	Madurai	—	40.2	26.7
Bengaluru	0.6	29.2	21.0	Mangaluru	19	30.1	23.4
Bhopal	8	28.8	23.6	Mumbai	8	32.5	27.7
Bhubaneswar	12.7	28.6	26.4	Mysuru	—	28.8	20.0
Chandigarh	34	33.9	23.8	New Delhi	—	36.2	28.7
Chennai	—	38.1	29.5	Patna	—	36.3	28.1
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.4	Port Blair	10.9	27.8	25.5
Dehradun	97.8	32.0	22.2	Puducherry	—	37.6	27.0
Gangtok	8	23.4	17.6	Pune	2.6	29.4	23.9
Goa	7	32.0	25.7	Raipur	43	31.0	23.6
Guwahati	3	35.6	26.0	Ranchi	3	29.7	23.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	—	25.8	19.5
Hyderabad	0.1	34.6	23.9	Shimla	—	26.8	20.2
Imphal	—	32.3	26.0	Srinagar	—	32.3	21.2
Jaipur	3	33.6	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	32.2	24.6
Kochi	26	28.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	39.1	26.6
Kohima	2	24.0	19.4	Vijayawada	—	37.0	27.0
Kolkata	3.2	30.9	27.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	40	36	83	55	
Bengaluru	10	50	77	—	92	
Chennai	5	6	29	33	99	
Delhi	9	38	72	77	133	
Hyderabad	21	16	39	76	86	
Kolkata	11	50	34	48	53	
Lucknow	6	40	48	53	90	
Mumbai	26	59	28	62	80	
Pune	12	28	37	81	84	
Visakhapatnam	17	80	39	61	131	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 217 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 7

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRS workers vandalise TV channel office over news report, five detained

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Tensions flared in Jubilee Hills on Saturday after a group of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers barged into the Mahaa TV office and vandalised property, allegedly angered by a news report concerning party leader K.T. Rama Rao and a film actor.

The West Zone police said five individuals have been taken into custody. "They resorted to damaging property over some news about KTR," an officer from the Banjara Hills police said. The security officer of the channel, Subramanyam, is the complainant in the case.

According to the police, the mob raised slogans, threw stones, and damaged vehicles parked outside the building. One employee was allegedly assaulted when he attempted to stop them. The report that sparked the outrage reportedly made references to K.T. Rama Rao in connection with an actor and also in the phone tapping case that has embroiled several former intelligence and senior police officers from the previous BRS government.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka condemned the attack, calling it 'inhumane and extremely unfortunate'.

"In a democracy, the media should be free to report and engage in discussion. If someone finds the content objectionable, there are legal and democratic means to respond. Peaceful protest and formal complaints are the proper channels," the Deputy CM said in an X post. The police investigation is ongoing.

SIMS associate professor held for sexual harassment

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga police on Friday arrested Ashwin Hebbar, associate professor of Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), accused of sexually harassing a postgraduate student. He was remanded to judicial custody. The student, on June 20, filed a complaint with the Shivamogga Women Police station, accusing Hebbar of sexually harassing her during a party at a hotel. The accused had been absconding since the case was filed.

Row over BrahMos unit 'delinking' in Kerala

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An alleged move to 'delink' the Thiruvananthapuram unit of BrahMos from the parent BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. , the Indo-Russian missile joint venture, has cast a pall of uncertainty. When contacted by *The Hindu*, BrahMos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram Ltd (BATL) managing director A. Joseph said the Thiruvananthapuram unit has not been delinked so far, but he also did not fully rule out the possibility of such an eventuality.

Employees' unions argue that the Kerala government cannot be kept in the dark about such decisions as the unit was established in 2007 by transferring the State-run Kerala Hi-Tech Industries Ltd (KELTEC) for a token ₹1. The unions allege that the BrahMos management have shown utter disregard to the Thiruvananthapuram unit even at a time when Operation Sindoor has demonstrated the might of the BrahMos missile and the demand for its production is on the rise. The BATL has run on a profit over the past 11 years, including a ₹24 crore profit in 2024-25.

With the INTUC-led BrahMos Staff Association and the AITUC-backed BrahMos Employees Union conveying their apprehensions over the move, Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor and CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam have separately appealed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to urgently intervene to protect the unit.

300-bed polytrauma centre at NIMHANS gets Union govt. nod

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central government has approved the establishment of a 300-bed Polytrauma Centre and Postgraduate Institute at Kyalasanahalli in Bengaluru North, where the north campus of NIMHANS is coming up. The project, which will be taken up at a cost of ₹498 crore, was awaiting approval for the last 11 years.

In July last year, C.N. Manjunath, Bengaluru Rural MP, submitted a concept note on the proposal for the 300-bed polytrauma centre to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, urging him to accord sanction at the earliest.

According to the sanction letter dated June 27 by the Union Ministry of Finance, the Union Health Ministry should ensure optimisation of resources (manpower, infrastructure, supplies, and medicines), as suggested by NITI Aayog in 2021, in its report titled 'Emergency and Injury Care at Secondary and Tertiary level Centres in India'. "To optimise the resources of the polytrauma centre, the proposed facility should also cater to regular patients along with emergency cases," the letter stated.

"Given that nearly 15% of deaths in India are due to road accidents and about 30% of accident victims suffer from multiple injuries, the need for a dedicated trauma facility is urgent. The ability to provide comprehensive, immediate care under one roof during the 'Golden Hour' can significantly improve survival rates and recovery outcomes," he said.

Pointing out that the polytrauma centre will serve as a crucial facility for the treatment of patients suffering from multiple and complex injuries, including those involving the head, brain, chest, abdomen, and bones, the doctor-turned-politician said the centre will play a vital role in addressing the growing shortage of hospital beds in Karnataka, especially in Bengaluru, and will ensure faster, more efficient trauma care. Importantly, it will also include a postgraduate institute to train trauma care specialists.

"The outpatient footfall at NIMHANS, the country's premier mental health institution, has increased from around 250 patients a day to 2,500 a day now. The hospital is always overcrowded and not able to cope with the load of patients. Because of space constraints and the non-availability of polytrauma services, critical patients are shifted from NIMHANS to other hospitals. Some of them die during transit," he said.

"This will be the second Polytrauma Centre in the country, after the Jayaprakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre at AIIMS, New Delhi, marking a significant expansion of India's trauma care infrastructure. Construction is set to be completed in 30 months," Dr. Manjunath said.

Although the State government had allotted 37 acres of land and the above proposal had been approved by the governing body of the institution with many revisions and re-revisions, it was pending for almost 11 years, he added.

NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
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Sale of attached properties of Erstwhile Amrapali Group through NBCC. Interested parties may register themselves on RAILTEL (The agency engaged by NBCC (INDIA) LTD for holding e-auction) or on website **https://nbccauction.enivida.com.** Last date for submission of application is **08.07.2025.**
E-Auction will be held on **09.07.2025.**
For Details, Please call:- 9772907414
Sd/-
NBCC

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/Halts/DBS Halt/2025/SBC Division
Dated : 19-06-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Dobbespet (DBS) Train Halt Station for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl. No	Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1	Dobbespet (DBS)	Yasvantpur	Date will be notified by the administration

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. of 14-07-2025
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/223/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Phone: 08426-281027
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/PB/TND/2025-26/950 Dated:26.06.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on **Service Tender** from the eligible contractors for the work of **KBJNL/2025-26/SE0157 for Rs. 239.45 Lakhs.**
The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from **30.06.2025 to 11.07.2025 till 5-00 PM**. **Pre-Bid meeting** will be conducted in Executive Engineer office KBJNL Dam Division Almatti on **Dt: 04.07.2025Cover-I** (Technical) Bid will be opened on **14.07.2025 at 11-00AM**, **Cover-II** (Financial Bid) will be opened on **17.07.2025 at 11-00AM** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti.
For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/157/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No.
HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-12 Dt. 24.06.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Provision of High Density Polyethylene mesh in Traction Installations to avoid bird menance and Barbed wire arrangement to prevent monkey climbing over Traction installation structures in Hubballi division.	Rs. 1,35,47,000.00/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 23.07.2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution,Hubballi
PUB/232/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Moblie App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @swr_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No.
HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-09 Dt. 24.06.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Provision of Auxality Transformer under Replacement of over aged signaling Installation at Caranzol, Dudhasagar and Sonallum stations.	Rs. 7079635.00/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 23.07.2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution,Hubballi
PUB/230/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Moblie App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @swr_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/15
Dated: 19-06-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for Lift of M/s Kamai make installed on Platform - 01 at Krishnarajanagar Railway Station for a period of 05 years.	Rs. 4,23,813/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11-07-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/225/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. : 08-SNT-MYS-2025
Dated: 20-06-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:-

SL	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Replacement of Datacom equipment's and network connectivity of PRS/UTS at Tier- 2, 3, & 4 and remote locations over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 3,50,78,895.24
2	Provision of short shunt signal at Harihar Yard on shunting neck	Rs. 84,68,840.21
3	Replacement of conventional domino panel with VDU at Arsikere, Birur, Naganahalli, Pandavapura, Byadrahalli, Chikjajur, Shivani, Hosadurga Road, Holalkere and Ramagiri station of Mysuru Division and Replacement of over aged Electronic Interlocking Operator VDU and Maintenance console at PCs at Naganahalli, Pandavapura, Byadrahalli, Shivani, Hosadurga Road, Ramagiri, Holalkere & Chikjajur stations and replacement of defective VDU at Tolahunse and Davangere stations of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 3,01,46,944.86

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14-07-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
PUB/224/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public that my client has intended to purchase the property bearing **Survey Number 79/1 measuring 2 acre 20 guntas situated at Sonnappanahalli Kasaba hobli, Doddaballapura, Bangalore rural district from its lawful owners 1) Sri. SADASHIVAIAH S/o. KENCHAPPA 2) Smt. ASHA. S D/o. SADASHIVAIAH 3) Smt. ROOPA. S D/o. SADASHIVAIAH 4) Sri. SHIVAKUMAR S/o SADASHIVAIAH**, All are Residing at Sonnappanahalli, Kasaba hobli, Doddaballapura, Bangalore rural district.who claims to be the Joint absolute owners of their respective portion which are particularly mentioned in the schedule hereunder. Any person having objection for sale of the said Schedule Property or any claim or interest in whatsoever manner in the Property may lodge the same with Documentary Proof with the undersigned within **10 Days** from the date of Publication of this Notice. Any objection received thereafter will not be entertained and my client will proceed to Purchase the Property in accordance with law.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that Piece and parcel of the dry Agricultural property bearing **Survey Number 79/1 measuring 2 acre 20 guntas situated at Sonnappanahalli village, Kasaba hobli, Doddaballapura, Bangalore rural district** and bounded on: **East by:** Munishamegowda, Nagraju, Ammayamma **West by:** Road **North by:** Mangaladevi **South by:** Suresh
S.UDAYA KUMARR. B.A. LL.B.,
Advocate (Roll No.275/89)
#263, Sri MNS Arcade,3rd Floor,
1st 'N' Block, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore-560 010,
Mobile: 98457 26723
Place: Bangalore Date: 29-06-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Sri. Bishwanath Singh, S/o. Sri. Ram Dahin Singh and his wife Smt. Anamika Singh W/o. Sri. Bishwanath Singh, have intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners 1) Sri. Arulappa, S/o. Late Dandu Sandyag Jacob 2) Sri. Nitin Kumar, S/o. Late Dandu Sandyag Jacob, 3) Sri. Dandu Eliyas, S/o. Late Dandu Jojappa 4) Sri. Dandu.J.Arogyaswamy S/o. Late. Dandu Jojappa, 5) Sri. D. J. Francis, S/o. Late Dandy Jojappa, Represented by their GPA holder M/s. R. T. Ventures, Rep. by its Partners, 1) Sri. M. Reddappa, S/o. Lat. M. Anjeneyulu Naidu and 2) Sri. P. G. Thyagaraj, S/o. Late P. Gopala Naidu having its registered office at No. 3, Yashoda Residency, 5th C Main road, K. R. Road, Tata Silk Farm, Opp to Tata Motors, Bangalore- 560 070.
If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client/s will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.
SCHEDULE
Residential Apartment Flat No. B-401, measuring 1410 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the 4th floor, B-Block of Apartment building known as "RAGAM MELODIES", with one covered Car Parking Slot in the Basement Floor, which is under construction on the Plot No. 73, BBMP E-katha bearing PID No. 5760889427, formed in the converted land bearing Sy. No.115/1 and Sy. No. 116/1, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Sy. No. 117/2, North by : Sy. No. 117 & Sy. No. 114(P), South by : Road.
MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 14-04-2025

From Page One

Special revision of voter roll under way in Bihar

Opposition parties have also made allegations of electoral-roll tampering and called the exercise a serious threat of disenfranchisement. "It is a sinister move to bring the NRC through the backdoor.

In 1935, under the Nazis [in Germany], you were supposed to be given an ancestor pass... Is this the new version of that Nazi ancestor pass?" Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said.

"Why is this exercise being suddenly done right now? We have evidence as to why it is being done. It is because the latest internal survey of the BJP for [West] Bengal shows just 46 to 49 seats for the party in the State's [upcoming] Assembly polls," he said.

On Friday, the Congress had said the exercise carries a huge risk of wilful exclusion of voters, using the power of the state machinery.

For those born before July 1, 1987, any document establishing their own date and place of birth must be submitted. For younger people born between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004, documents must be submitted to prove their own date and place of birth along with either one of their parents. For those born after December 2, 2004, the proofs of place and date of birth have to be given for themselves and both their parents.

EC sources said the poll body already had 77,895 booth-level officers (BLOs) and was appointing nearly 20,603 more for new polling stations. More than one lakh volunteers would assist genuine electors, particularly the old, sick, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), poor, and other vulnerable groups during the special revision.

New draft of U.S. law to tax foreign remittances

The 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May this year. It is now up for debate in the U.S. Senate, following which it will be voted upon.

"Senate Republicans released their updated draft of the proposed One Big Beautiful Bill Act on June 27 and have a self imposed deadline of July 4 to try to pass this bill," said Lloyd Pinto, Partner - U.S. Tax at Grant Thornton Bharat.

"The updated Senate version significantly changes the remittance transfer provisions that were passed by the House Republicans. In the latest Senate draft, the remittance transfer tax has been reduced to 1% from the erstwhile proposal of 3.5%."

The 3.5% tax proposal itself was a reduction brought into the Act in May from the original proposal of 5%.

"This [the latest relaxations] should come as a huge relief to the NRI community in the U.S. as they will not be subject to this remittance tax if the remittances are made through accounts held with designated U.S. banks and financial institutions or funded via debit or credit cards issued in the U.S."

Bihar becomes first State to vote using mobile app

E-SECBHR was made available for elderly, disabled persons, pregnant women to vote in municipal bypolls and election in six Nagar Panchayats; East Champaran native cast country's first e-vote

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

In a first, voters exercised their franchise through mobile phones in Bihar on Saturday. The voting was part of the municipal bypolls and election in six Nagar Panchayats in the State. The districts where the polls were held include Patna, Buxar, Rohtas and East Champaran.

While voting continued through the usual method of electronic voting machines at all the polling booths, some voters were able to cast their vote from home through a mobile phone app.

The facility was made available for senior citizens, disabled persons, and pregnant women who may find it difficult to visit the booths. Polling was held across 489 booths for 538 candidates. People were also able to use the State Election Commission website to vote.

Tech adopter: Senior citizens in Rohtas district after e-voting for the Bihar municipal polls on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Mrs. Bibha Kumari cast the country's first e-vote creating new history with e-voting in local body elections. A symbol of convenience, security, and empowered participation," Bihar's State Election Commission (SEC) posted on X. She is a resident of Pakridayal in East Champaran district. Munna Kumar from the same district was the first male voter to cast an e-vote.

Bihar State Election Commissioner Deepak Prasad had earlier said that eligible voters could install the E-SECBHR app and link the mobile number added in the voters' list.

The app was developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

Mr. Prasad, however, did not disclose whether this facility would be available during the upcoming Assembly election due in October-November.

Tampering concerns

Allaying concerns around the risk of tampering of e-votes. Mr. Prasad asserted that efforts have been made to maintain transparency and the voting process would be smooth and fair.

Only two registered voters are allowed to log in using one mobile number and verification of each voter is done by entering the voter identity number. The other security measures include blockchain technology, face-matching and scanning.

Parag Jain, who had key role in Sindoor, appointed RAW chief

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Parag Jain

The Union government on Saturday appointed senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Parag Jain as the new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency.

A 1989-batch IPS officer from the Punjab cadre, Mr. Jain will succeed incumbent RAW chief Ravi Sinha, who is due to retire on June 30.

Mr. Jain will assume office on July 1 for a fixed two-year term.

At present, Mr. Jain heads the Aviation Research Centre (ARC), a key wing of RAW. He is said to have played a pivotal role in Operation Sindoor by providing intelligence inputs that enabled precision missile strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan.

Mr. Jain has previously served in various capacities in Punjab during its terrorism crisis, including as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and Deputy Inspector-General (DIG). His past assignments also include significant responsibilities on the Pakistan desk of RAW, and he was posted in Jammu and Kashmir during the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Additionally, Mr. Jain has had diplomatic and intelligence stints in Sri Lanka and Canada, where he monitored Khalistani terror modules.

Over the course of his career, he has held several sensitive posts relating to national security and foreign intelligence.

Former Odisha CM Patnaik flays BJP govt. over lapses, delay in Rath Yatra rituals

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

A day after the sibling deities' journey remained incomplete, former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took a sharp swipe at the Mohan Majhi government, citing mismanagement of Odisha's most sacred event.

Recuperating in Mumbai after a procedure for cervical arthritis, Mr. Patnaik took to social media platform X to express concern over the series of lapses that marred the Rath Yatra festivities.

"We are not here to point fingers or blame the administration for Friday's inordinate delay in pulling the Nandighosha (Lord Jagannath's chariot). But it is impossible not to voice our deep concern and anguish over how things unfolded during the most sacred event in our State," said Mr. Patnaik in his statement.

Naveen Patnaik

He further said, "It is hard to forget how, last year, Lord Balabhadra's idol slipped during the Adapa Bije Pahandi – a moment that left countless devotees shaken. And now this year, we witnessed Nandighosha ratha still standing at the Singhadwar till 7.45 p.m., only to move a few metres before the day ended. As per ritual, chariot pulling must be halted after sunset. On Friday, the Nandighosh chariot, which was the last to be towed, could not cover the intended distance due to the large crowd surrounding it."

"May Mahaprabhu (lord) Jagannath forgive all those responsible for the terrible mess that has overshadowed this divine festival this year. I hope it leads to deep introspection by all in government," he said.

Mr. Patnaik also posted media reports which alleged that two ministers had provided entry passes for the inner cordon to a large number of supporters which was major reason behind the delay.

In addition to the delay, hospitalisation of 700 devotees due to a stampede-like situation and heat exhaustion in Puri was said to be upshoot of mismanagement of event.

The rituals of the sibling deities of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri evoke deep emotions among Odias across the State. Successive governments have taken utmost care to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual Rath Yatra.

CPI(M) leaders meet kin of 9-year-old girl killed in Kaliganj bomb explosion

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Leaders of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), including the party's West Bengal secretary Mohammad Salim, on Saturday met the family of the girl who was killed in the Kaliganj bomb explosion on June 23. Mr. Salim was accompanied by Democratic Youth Federation of India State president Meenakshi Mukherjee, who met the family members.

Probe on: Forensic team examine and collect samples from the site following a bomb explosion in Nadia. ANI

Election to the Kaliganj Assembly seat was held on June 19, and on June 23, before the bypoll results were declared, a crude bomb hurled at the house of Tammana Khatun, 9, took her life. The police have claimed that bombs were hurled during celebratory processions. The byelection saw the Trinamool Congress candidate, Alfa Ahmed, winning the election.

Mr. Salim questioned why the area had not been sanitised, and all bombs and ammunition removed, during the elections.

"I ask the local police here – there are so many police here today because we are here. Where were you when this incident happened? The authorities – SDO (Sub Divisional Magistrate), DM (District Magistrate), IC (Inspector-in-Charge) – their job is to maintain law and order in the State, following the Constitution, and conducting fair elections. They have failed massively. We are asking for a proper investigation," the CPI(M) State secretary said.

Those who threw bombs during celebratory processions were criminals, and the Mamata Banerjee government was promoting such elements, Ms. Mukherjee said.

Khatun's family members said they were targeted because they were supporters of the CPI(M).

The police have arrested five persons in connection with the incident.

16 soldiers killed in suicide attack in Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR

A suicide attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan killed 16 soldiers and wounded more than two dozen people, civilians among them, local government officials and police officers said on Saturday.

"A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a military convoy," said a local government official in North Waziristan district, adding that 16 soldiers were killed.

Roof collapse

"The explosion also caused the roofs of two houses to collapse, injuring six children," a police officer in the district said.

The attack was claimed by the suicide bomber wing of the Hafiz Gul Bahadur armed group, a faction of the Pakistan Taliban.

Medical examination does not rule out sexual assault in Kolkata case

Shiv Sahay Singh
Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

With the medical examination not ruling out sexual assault, the complainant in a rape case reported from a law college here appeared before a city court on Saturday and recorded her statement before a judicial magistrate under Section 183 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

The Kolkata Police arrested Pinaki Banerjee, a security guard of the college who was on duty on June 25, the day of the alleged incident. The complainant had said that the security guard "was helpless and did not help" despite being present and watching the situation unfold.

The crime took place inside the guard's room, next to the students' union office, in the college, the student said in her complaint.

The police have formed a five-member special investigation team under an Assistant Commissioner of Police of South Suburban Division of the city police to probe the sexual assault.

Three persons, including a former student leader associated with the Trinamool Congress student wing, Monojit Mishra, were arrested between Thursday and Friday in the case. The report of the medical examination conducted on Thursday has revealed "abrasion" and "marks" on different parts of the complainant's body, and said that "sexual assault cannot be ruled out".

The report points out that swabs from the complainant have been collected for further examination.

The police said the medico-legal examination of the victim had been completed and she was counselled by an authorised counsellor.

The student has alleged sexual assault on the campus between 7.30 p.m. and 10.50 p.m. on June 25. The police have pressed charges of gang rape and wrongful confinement against the three accused, who have been remanded in police custody till July 1.

The police have seized mobile phones of the three accused using which they had "captured the obscene videos/photos of the victim girl". The complainant has said the accused recorded videos of the assault and threatened to make them public if she did not cooperate with them.

The National Commission for Women, which had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the incident, said that Commission Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar had written to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal to ensure police cooperation so that NCW member Archana Majumdar had full access to the victim and her family members.

CISF plans to integrate airport staff passes with facial tech and FASTags

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

A multi-stakeholder meeting on airport security held this week discussed ways to mitigate "insider threat" by integrating entry passes issued to airport, airline, and ground-handling staff with facial technology, and their vehicle's high security number plate and radio frequency identification-enabled FASTag used for collecting toll tax.

Security vision: The move to link airport entry passes of staff will help in curbing 'insider threat'. VELANKANNI RAJ B.

Such a move would enable "faster entry into the airport and quicker processing at security checkpoints. Digitised standard operating procedures will also lead to smarter and quicker responses to any security concerns," a press statement issued by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Saturday said.

Such an integration of airport entry passes (AEPs) used by security, airport, airline and ground handling staff, among others, for accessing airports will help in curbing "insider threat", Inspector General of CISF (Airport Sector), Vijay Prakash, told *The Hindu*. This was required as employees left their vehicles in parking area for long hours, allowing scope for misuse by miscreants who were not AEP holders or *bona fide* staff, the official said.

There were deliberations on the integration of Artificial Intelligence in data analysis for gaining insights and anticipating security risks, the statement added.

These issues were discussed at a CISF workshop on Friday, attended by its senior officials, security chiefs from 69 airports, and representatives of the Civil Aviation Ministry, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and the Airports Authority of India. The agencies that were present included the Delhi Police, the Bureau of Immigration, the Special Protection Group, and the National Security Guard. There were also representatives from the Delhi International Airport Limited, and airlines, including Air India Express and IndiGo.

There was also a suggestion to ensure a zoning system for AEP holders, so that if someone was permitted access to only certain part of airports, including the arrival hall, they could be restricted from going beyond that area with the help of technology along the lines of RFID (radio frequency identification), which could set off an alarm.

BCAS, the aviation security watchdog, issues AEPs for aviation personnel who need to access the airport, as well as salespersons at retail outlets and restaurants inside airports.

Kolkata erupts in protests over rape of student; BJP leader held

Trinamool MP's remarks on the crime spark strong criticism, with BJP saying they were 'in favour of the rapists'; visuals of the accused with top Trinamool leaders circulate on social media; police arrest four people in connection with the case

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Protests intensified in Kolkata on Saturday over the alleged sexual assault on a law student in her college. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit president Sukanta Majumdar was detained in one of the protests. Senior Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee's statement on the case has sparked a backlash.

The BJP said the comments by Mr. Banerjee were made "in favour of the rapists" and "shameful". "If a friend rapes another friend, then how will the government provide protection in such cases? Police cannot be in every corner," Mr. Banerjee said. He said women's safety was at stake because of the mentality of men.

BJP leader Amit Malviya called the statement "a trivialisation of the crime", and accused the ruling Trinamool of shielding its members.

On Saturday, BJP workers organised multiple protests to condemn the gang rape. They clashed with the police in several parts of Kolkata and on its outskirts. At Gariahath crossing, close to the college where the incident took place, Mr. Majumdar was seen being escorted into a police van during a scuffle. "This is the face of democracy in West Bengal. Police have arrested us and are not allowing us even to voice our opinions," Mr. Majumdar said before being detained. Many other BJP workers were detained. Protests were organised by Congress workers outside the college. Left-led protests were seen across the city. Many Congress protesters called for an end to the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool regime in Bengal.

In rage: BJP protesters clash with the police at Gariahath crossing in Kolkata on Saturday while protesting against the rape of a law student. DEBASISH BHADURI

BJP protesters, on the other hand, said that they wanted to prove that all abusers in the State were from the Trinamool Congress.

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh on Saturday condemned the incident, but asked leaders not to politicise the issue, and said that they were not trying to shield the accused while also calling for strict punishment.

Till now, the police have arrested four people in the case.

The Trinamool, under growing scrutiny, has distanced itself from the 31-year-old main accused. Trinamool student wing head Trinankur Bhattacharya acknowledged that Monojit Mishra – one of the prime accused – had earlier links with the party but insisted that "individual misconduct does not define the party". Trinamool officials said the accused had not held any official position in the party since 2022.

Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim denied any official association of the main accused with the Trinamool. "They might be supporters, but they had no relation to the Trinamool. Anyone who does [join] Trinamool based on ideals can never commit such crimes," he said.

However, visuals of Monojit with top Trinamool leaders have continued to circulate on social media, further fuelling the Opposition's narrative that the ruling party has cultivated a culture of impunity.

The college where the incident took place has already increased security and installed more CCTV cameras on the campus. This has also brought criticism from political parties, as many said that the CCTV installation after the crime was a futile effort.

Cong. questions BJP over delay in implementing 27% OBC reservation in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bhupesh Baghel, Harish Chaudhary, Jitu Patwari and Anil Jaihind address a press conference on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of being against the Backward Classes, the Congress on Saturday alleged that the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh had been wilfully delaying passing on the benefits of 27% reservation in State government jobs and institutions despite a law enacted by the Assembly.

The party demanded immediate implementation of 27% reservation for the OBCs in Madhya Pradesh, as it has been categorically cleared by the Supreme Court.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters, senior party leaders, including former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, AICC in-charge for Madhya Pradesh Harish Chaudhary, State Congress chief Jitu Patwari, and the head of the Congress's OBC department, Anil Jaihind, said the delay in implementing the reservation was revealing the State government's anti-reservation and anti-Backward Class mindset.

Mr. Chaudhary said that in 1994, the Congress government had provided 14% reservation to the OBCs and subsequently, in 2003, proposed the quota to be raised to 27%. However, since then, the BJP had been in power in the State, and it had never taken any decision to implement the decision. When the Kamal Nath government was formed in December 2018, it brought an Ordinance to provide 27% reservation for OBCs in 2019.

"The BJP challenged it in court, which then directed that a law be enacted on the matter. We subsequently got the Bill passed in the Assembly. But the BJP formed the government again, and it did not implement the reservation," Mr. Chaudhary said, adding that the pleas against the 27% quota were by the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Chhattisgarh issue

Mr. Baghel said that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh had unanimously passed a law in December 2022 for providing 27% reservation to the OBCs, but the Bill has yet to get the nod of the Governor.

"We will not only fight the issue legally, but will raise it publicly to build pressure on the BJP government to implement it," he said. Mr. Patwari said it was strange that Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he belonged to the OBCs but was not providing the community its due. "The OBC CMs of M.P. belonging to the BJP have all betrayed their own community," he said.

'Investment has not grown because of govt.'s policies'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday targeted the economic policies of the Narendra Modi government, alleging the "policies of suppression and oppression" had resulted in sluggish investment growth.

"Savings have dried up and household expenditures have been curbed in *Amrit Kaal*," party president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Interest rates on savings accounts were at their lowest in 25 years, and household savings at their lowest in 50 years, with a consistent decline in the past three years, Mr. Kharge alleged.

"It seems that the Modi government has taken a contract to pick the public's pockets!!" Mr. Kharge said.

India's economic growth "stubbornly refuses to accelerate at the desired and perfectly feasible rate", Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a separate post.

"The most important reason for this failure is that private corporate investment continues to remain sluggish, in spite of the generous tax cuts in September 2019 and the PLI [Production Linked Incentive] cash handouts. The Modi government's own survey indicates that private sector capital expenditure may well be 25% lower in 2025/26 as compared to the previous year," Mr. Ramesh said.

While banks were willing to lend, companies were unwilling to borrow "since the investment environment is not seen to be conducive to expansion," he said, quoting informed analysts.

Although there were global uncertainties, the growth in demand within India was being held back because of stagnant wages, a distorted GST structure, and sharpening of inequalities, Mr. Ramesh said.

A day after BJP announces Tripura schedule, rift over candidate puts internal polls on hold

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Bharatiya Janata Party's internal poll in-charge K. Laxman notified the schedule to elect a new president for the Tripura unit of the BJP, the matter was put on hold over differences between Chief Minister Manik Saha and the national leadership over who the sole candidate for the post should be.

On Friday, the BJP had issued a schedule for a Statewide poll with the result to be announced on June 29. Late in the evening, after a phone call from the BJP's national general secretary (organisation), B. L. Santhosh, a new notice putting the polls on hold was issued by returning officer Samarendra Deb.

Turn of events: BJP president J. P. Nadda with Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and party MP Biplab Kumar Deb. PTI

Top sources in the party confirmed that there were ongoing differences between Mr. Saha, who wants to push the candidacy of Tinku Roy, a Minister in his government in the State, and spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharya. "The *sanghathan* [party organisation] candidate is, however, Bhagwan Das, who has been a former Minister and is currently an MLA," said a source. Mr. Das is seen to be close to former Chief Minister Biplab Deb, which may have been resented by Mr. Saha.

The differences within Tripura BJP are not the best news for the BJP, which has been dawdling over organisational polls for over a year, ever since the results of the Lok Sabha polls were out. Current BJP president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda is serving an extension of his term due to the party's inability to complete the polling process amid growing differences between the BJP and its ideological parent, the RSS, over who the next national president of the BJP would be.

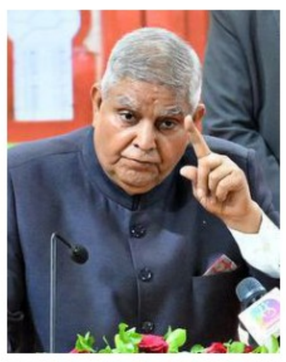
Additionally, according to the BJP's constitution, the national president is to be elected from an electoral college of at least 50% of all newly constituted State and Union Territory party units.

Out of the 37 such State and Union Territory units, only 14 State units have reported completion of the electoral process, falling short of the quorum required. With the notification of the Tripura polls on Friday and sources confirming that Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will also complete their poll processes by then were hopes that the technical part of the requirement would be complete before the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

"We expect the Tripura issue to be sorted out soon," said a source. BJP is still hoping to keep to its deadline.

'1976 change to the Preamble a sacrilege of spirit of *Sanatana*'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar says the Preamble of any Constitution was its soul.

In response to the controversial comments by senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Dattatreya Hosabale that "secularism" and "socialism" were not part of the Preamble to the Constitution drafted by B.R. Ambedkar, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said here on Saturday that the words were added to the Preamble during Emergency as an "ulcer", and were a sacrilege to the spirit of "*Sanatana*".

Speaking at an event to release *Ambedkar's Messages*, a book compiled by former Karnataka MLC D.S. Veeraiah, Mr. Dhankhar said the Preamble to any Constitution was its soul.

"The Preamble of the Indian Constitution is unique. Except Bharat, [no other] Constitution's Preamble has undergone change, and why? Preamble is not changeable. Preamble is not alterable. Preamble is the basis on which the Constitution has grown. Preamble is the seed of the Constitution. It is soul of the Constitution, but this Preamble for Bharat was changed by 42nd Constitutional Amendment of 1976, adding the words 'socialist', 'secular', and 'integrity'," Mr. Dhankar said.

'Beyond words'

During Emergency, the "darkest period of Indian democracy", when people were behind bars, fundamental rights were suspended. "In the name of those – 'We, the People' – who were enslaved, we just go for what? Just a flourish of words? It is to be deprecated beyond words," Mr. Dhankar said.

The founding fathers thought it befittingly wise to give us that Preamble, he said. "First, we change something which is not changeable, alterable – something that emanates from 'We, the People' – and then, you change it during Emergency. When 'We, the People' were bleeding – in heart, in soul – they were in darkness," he added.

'A betrayal'

"Addition of these words in the Preamble during Emergency signals betrayal of the mindset of the framers of the Constitution. It is nothing but belittling the civilisational wealth and knowledge of this country for thousands of years. It is sacrilege to the spirit of '*Sanatana*'," Mr. Dhankar said.

Panel flags China's presence in Indian Ocean Region as a strategic challenge

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The growing presence of extra-regional players in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), especially China gaining a foothold in the region, is one of the strategic challenges for India, reads the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

The report, released earlier this week, further says that China has been undertaking several infrastructure projects focusing on ports, airports, and the logistics sector for dual-use purposes, in addition to deploying research and survey vessels in the region to augment maritime domain awareness and collect sensitive oceanography and marine data.

The report reads that China has expanded its naval power in the region by increasing the number of vessels and duration of deployment. This has been facilitated by establishing a military base in Djibouti in 2017 and the creation of dual-use infrastructure astride critical maritime choke points in the IOR to serve logistics support functions.

China is developing ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean Region. RADHIKA SANTHANAM

It says as part of this strategy, China is also developing ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries of the IOR, including in the vicinity of India's maritime boundary, and has a stated goal of becoming a maritime power. India has been working closely with partner countries in the region and sensitising them to China's activities and the long-term implications for their internal and regional security.

While the Indian government is aware of China's engagements with other countries, including Sri Lanka, India's relations with these countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of these countries with third countries, the report reads.

Replying to the government's perception towards China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its debt-trapped diplomacy, the report mentioned that the Government of India has had a principled position on the initiative. Their concerns arise *inter alia* from the inclusion of the so-called illegal China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a flagship project of BRI, which impinges on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The so-called illegal "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" passes through parts of the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, which are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. The government has conveyed its concerns to the Chinese side on multiple occasions and has asked them to cease such activities.

"We have been clear that militarisation of the Indian Ocean Region is not desirable and it will adversely impact the security of the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific," the report mentioned regarding potential military use of ports and infrastructures by China developed in the IOR.

Must clarify Trump's claim on trade deal, says Sharma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and former Union Commerce Minister Anand Sharma on Saturday urged the government to clarify U.S. President Donald Trump's claim on "opening up" India by signing a "very big" trade deal soon.

The India-U.S. trade deal should be mutually rewarding and not "suboptimal under pressure", Mr. Sharma said on X. "Trump's claim of sweeping Indian tariff concessions in the proposed trade deal and "opening up India" needs to be clarified by the government and leadership of Opposition parties be taken in confidence," he said in a post.

He said India's national interests must be protected, and it must continue to strengthen a rules-based multilateral trade regime and honour World Trade Organization agreements.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Notice Inviting Bids

File No. M-13/1107/2024-Academic Wing-JD/DSE (Computer No. 19327) dated 26.05.2025

The Directorate of School Education, Puducherry invites the following bid through GeM portal **GEM/2025/B/6391137 dated 27.06.2025** for the supply of Laptops

Interested bidders/manufacturers/OEMs may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

Sd/-
(P. PRIYTARSHNY, I.A.S.,)
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL EDUCATION,
PUDUCHERRY

No.227/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-2026

INBRIEF

Himachal flash floods: 1 more body retrieved, toll reaches 7

The death toll in the flash floods that wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra and Kullu on Wednesday has gone up to seven after the recovery of another body, officials said. The body of a minor girl, identified as Murti Devi, was recovered near the river in Bakshahal village in Kullu, they said. Murti, her father and aunt were swept away in flash floods caused by cloudburst at Jeeva Nallah in Sainj area on Wednesday. The girl's father and aunt have not been located yet. Three people including Nand Lal, his daughter and sister were washed away in the deluge while trying to take away valuables from their homes at Rehla Bihal in Kullu district on Wednesday. PTI

Ahmedabad flight crash: DNA test ascertains 260th victim

More than two weeks after the Ahmedabad plane crash, DNA test has ascertained the identity of the last victim, and the death toll in the tragedy now stands at 260, officials said on Saturday. The mortal remains of the last victim were handed over to the family, they said. Medical authorities had earlier pegged the fatality count at 270. A London-bound Air India flight crashed into a hostel complex in the Meghaninagar area of Ahmedabad moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in the city on June 12, killing 241 on board and several others on the ground. One passenger miraculously survived. PTI

Ahead of Amarnath Yatra, J&K L-G reviews arrangements

Ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday interacted with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in Srinagar to review preparations and ensure a smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The interaction, held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), was attended by National Conference leader and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with members of civil society, religious leaders, District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons, office-bearers of business and trade associations, and sitting MLAs. PTI

TV actor Shefali Jariwala dies in Mumbai at the age of 42

Popular TV actor Shefali Jariwala, who shot to fame with her breakout appearance in the remix track "Kaanta Laga" and also appeared on several reality shows, has died at the age of 42. Jariwala was rushed to Bellevue Multispeciality Hospital in suburban Mumbai by her husband, actor Parag Tyagi on Friday night. Her body later was taken to the Cooper hospital for postmortem. Many media reports claim that she died due to a cardiac arrest, though the official cause of her death is yet to be ascertained. Her funeral was held at Oshiwara Hindu crematorium on Saturday evening. The last rites were performed by Jariwala's husband, father Satish Jariwala, and younger sister Shivani Jariwala. PTI

SUDOKU

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No.SS6565 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	9	6	7	8	5	3	1
5	7	1	2	3	4	6	9	8
6	3	8	5	9	1	2	4	7
1	4	7	3	5	2	8	6	9
8	5	2	1	6	9	4	7	3
3	9	6	8	4	7	1	5	2
2	6	5	7	8	3	9	1	4
9	8	3	4	1	6	7	2	5
7	1	4	9	2	5	3	8	6

Prada credits Kolhapuri inspiration

After a controversy, fashion brand says it recognises cultural significance of traditional Indian craftsmanship; Maharashtra business body decides to patent Kolhapuri chappals for protection from infringement; artisans rejoice but also say that the brand should do more to help their trade

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
MUMBAI/BELAGAVI

Italian luxury fashion brand Prada has acknowledged being inspired by 'traditional Indian handcrafted footwear, with a centuries-old heritage' for its sandals featured in the recent Men's Spring/Summer 2026 collection, after being slammed for failing to acknowledge the resemblance to India's GI-tagged Kolhapuri chappals.

Representatives of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, which communicated with Prada, said that Prada was likely to send its team to explore any possibility of collaboration on the product in the near future. Meanwhile, the business body has decided to patent the Kolhapuri chappals to avoid any infringement of rights in the future.

The Kolhapuri chappal makers have also welcomed Prada's acknowledgement, but have expressed an expectation that the brand should do more to help their trade.

Two days after the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) wrote to Patrizio Bertelli, chairperson of Prada's Board of Directors, the company responded,

'Responsible practices'

"We deeply recognise the cultural significance of such Indian craftsmanship. Please note that, for now, the entire collection is currently at an early stage of design development and none of the pieces are confirmed to be produced or commercialised. We are committed to responsible design practices, fostering cultural engagement, and opening a dialogue for a meaningful exchange with local Indian artisan communities as we have done in the past in other collections to ensure the rightful recognition of their craft. Prada strives to pay homage and recognise the value of such specialised craftspeople that represent an unrivalled standard of excellence and heritage," it said.

In vogue: A model presents a creation from Prada Spring-Summer 2026 menswear collection during the Milan Fashion Week. REUTERS

The letter was written to MACCIA's president Lalit Gandhi by Lorenzo Bertelli, Prada Group head of corporate social responsibility on Friday. "Prada has shown good ethics now. This has led to the acknowledgement of our traditional craft on a global platform. We had made three demands to them in the communication we had sent to them on June 25. They were that Prada should acknowledge the inspiration behind the design publicly; they should explore the possibilities for collaboration or fair compensation that could benefit the artisan communities involved; and that they should consider supporting ethical fashion practices that respect traditional knowledge and cultural rights," Mr. Gandhi told *The Hindu* from Kolhapur.

The letter written by MACCIA to Prada stated, "Such a gesture would not only uphold ethical standards in global fashion, but also foster a meaningful exchange between heritage craftsmanship and contemporary design. We trust that a brand of Prada's stature and influence will take this concern in the right spirit and initiate a thoughtful response."

Collaborating with the artisans and businesses, MACCIA has decided to patent the Kolhapuri chappals to avoid any global infringement in the future.

"The GI tag is given by the Indian government. It is not sufficient in the international market. We have now formed a separate wing. We will patent not just the Kolhapuri chappals, but also Kolhapur's jaggery," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Everyone is blaming Prada for basing its designs on the Kolhapuri chappals. But I think they have done us a favour by taking our brand and making it global," said Shivaraj Soudagar, who runs the Athani Kolhapuri chappal cluster, a micro industry that produces the footwear in Belagavi.

"Leaders and government officers are talking about taking Prada to court. But we would like them to help us improve our designs and sell them. I want Prada to realise that an average chappal maker in Athani, Nippani or surrounding villages like Madabhavi earns between ₹250 - ₹400 per pair. The middlemen who transport those goods sell them for ₹1,500 - ₹2,000 in Pune and Mumbai. The retailer sells them for up to ₹4,000 a pair. We would like a system where our goods are exported and the profits shared with us. If the Italian company is selling them for over one lakh rupees, we would be happy even if we get 10% of that amount," he said.

World is borderless... India is much larger than shown on maps: Shukla

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian on the International Space Station (ISS), spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and described his view of earth as "borderless" and India as looking "much larger" than how it is projected on maps.

"India looks beautiful and much larger than how it appears relative to other countries on a map. The one-ness of the world – a sentiment that we endorse even in India – is very evident from here. No countries exist, and ultimately, we are all part of humanity. The earth is our home and we are all its citizens," he told the Prime Minister in a conversation that was also broadcast for public viewing on YouTube.

Mr. Modi told the astronaut that his space travel marked the beginning of a new era and was the first step towards Mission Gaganyaan, India's own human spaceflight project. "Shubhanshu, today you are the farthest from the land of India, but the closest to the hearts of every Indian," he said.

A celestial call: Narendra Modi during a video-interaction with Shubhanshu Shukla on Saturday. PTI

In a roughly 20-minute conversation, Group Captain Shukla who appeared on a screen with the tricolour in the background and string of paper flags from other countries festooned around him, answered questions from Mr. Modi on the food he had carried along, the experience of weightlessness, the experiments he would be performing and what message he had for Indians on the earth.

"Right now, I have tied my feet to the ground to be able to speak to you, else I'll just float upwards," Mr. Shukla said, eliciting an amused chuckle from Mr. Modi. "Eating, drinking... everything feels different, and despite all the training and being fully prepared for what to expect, it takes some time to get used to everything."

Mr. Shukla told the Prime Minister that he had brought with him *gajar ka halwa*, *moong dal halwa* and *aam ras* and that they were relished by his fellow astronauts on the space station.

The Prime Minister told the Lucknow-born astronaut that his historic journey was not just limited to space, but would add fresh momentum to the march towards Viksit Bharat (developed India). "We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward. We must build our own space station. And we must ensure that an Indian astronaut lands on the Moon.

"Your experiences will play a crucial role in all these future missions. I am confident that you are diligently recording every bit of your experience," he added.

Mr. Modi conveyed his wishes and said he was looking forward to Mr. Shukla's safe return to earth.

(With PTI inputs)

₹1,156.15-crore worth projects sanctioned to T.N.: Fisheries Dept.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to an analysis that appeared in *The Hindu* on June 14 that Tamil Nadu's share is higher than Union government's in funding for at least six Central schemes, the Union Fisheries Ministry said that under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Centre sanctioned 116 projects worth ₹1,156.15 crore to the Tamil Nadu government with ₹448.65 crore of Central share.

In a statement, the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry said an additional fund of ₹262.42 crore was released for implementation of the Blue Revolution Scheme (during 2017-18) to Tamil Nadu for implementation of the projects approved under the PMMSY. The department said a total of ₹711.07 crore from the Centre and ₹460.1 crore of the State's share was approved in the total project cost.

An extra of ₹262.42 crore was released for Blue Revolution Scheme, says Fisheries Ministry.

"The share of funding by Government of India in the projects approved under PMMSY is 60% of the total government assistance. However, the States are free to decide on their contribution for implementation of the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of PMMSY," the statement said.

Secondary pollutants, especially ammonium sulphate, constitute a third of PM2.5 pollution

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Secondary pollutants, particularly ammonium sulphate, that results from the reaction between sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ammonia (NH3) in the atmosphere, are responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution, said a study from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

Primary pollutants are those that result from the burning of fossil fuels from automobiles, coal plants and organic matter. These pollutants, once they climb into the atmosphere, react with each other or other gases or water vapour in the atmosphere to form more complex particles – some of which are harmful. These are called secondary pollutants.

The CREA findings emerge from a combination of satellite-data imagery and modelling analysis.

"This widespread presence of ammonium sulphate has been observed in several cities, irrespective of their proximity to major emission sources, due to the trans-boundary nature of pollution," an accompanying press release noted.

Health hazard: Ammonium sulphate concentration is 2.5 times higher within 10 km of coal-fired power plants. AP

CREA's study says the nationwide average concentration of ammonium sulphate is 11.9 microgram per cubic metre, accounting for approximately 34% of the PM2.5 mass. The main driver of ammonium sulphate formation and more than 60% of SO2 emissions in India originate from coal-fired thermal power plants.

"This makes them a critical target for reducing secondary PM2.5 pollution through the implementation of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems," the report notes.

Though it is mandatory for Indian coal thermal plants to install such units, only about 8% have installed them, and the government is also considering doing away with such a requirement altogether.

Ammonium sulphate concentrations constitute a greater proportion of particulate matter nearer to coal plants and fall with distance. It is 2.5 times higher within 10 km of coal-fired power plants (15 microgram per cubic metre) compared to areas beyond 10 km (6 microgram per cubic metre).

While the contribution to PM2.5 is 36% near coal-fired thermal power plants, it remains significant at 23% in other areas, indicating both local and trans-boundary impacts of SO2 emissions.

Across the 130 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities, concentrations ranged from 3.9 to 22.5 microgram per cubic metre, with the share of PM2.5 from ammonium sulphate ranging between 20% and 43%.

Notably, ammonium sulphate made up more than 30% of the total PM2.5 levels in 114 out of 130 NCAP cities. These are cities marked out as having a considerable level of air pollution and required to reduce pollution by a certain percentage by 2025-26.

In addition to ammonium sulphate, other secondary pollutants like ammonium nitrate also contribute significantly, up to 50% of PM2.5 mass.

'Follow emission norms'

"Alongside targeted strategies such as deploying flue-gas desulphurisation in coal-fired thermal power plants to reduce sulphur dioxide and promoting efficient fertilizer management to reduce ammonia, it is essential that all polluting sectors fully comply with existing emission norms. Ensuring both source-specific actions and regulatory compliance is critical for reducing precursor gas emissions and tackling the growing burden of secondary PM2.5 pollution in India,' said Manoj Kumar, Analyst at CREA.

Sacrilege of scriptures to attract firmer penalty: Mann

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

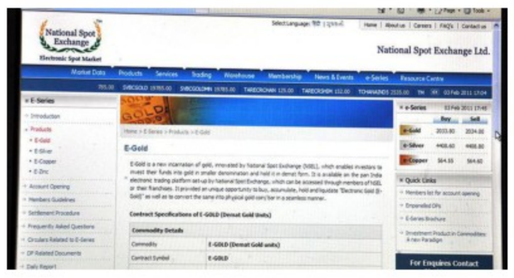
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said his government will introduce a law to ensure harsher punishment for acts of sacrilege against religious scriptures.

Chairing a meeting with officers and representatives of the 'Sarb Dharam Beadbi Rokko Kanoon Morcha' here, he also said all stakeholders, including religious organisations, would be consulted in drafting the legislation. Their views will be incorporated in the law, he said.

Mr. Mann said this process will be completed shortly to assuage the sentiments of the public and very soon a Cabinet meeting will be convened.

In an official statement, Mann reiterated that his government is firmly committed to ensuring exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of sacrilege incidents.

INBRIEF



NSEL investors urge Fadnavis to back one-time settlement

The NSEL Investors Forum (NIF) has approached Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, seeking his support for a proposed one-time settlement (OTS) between investors and the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL). In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, the forum, representing investors impacted by the NSEL payment default crisis, has highlighted the importance of the settlement, which has been discussed over a decade.

Aurobindo arm recalling 48,000 vials of Gentamicin

Eugia US LLC, a step down subsidiary of Hyderabad-headquartered generic drugmaker Aurobindo Pharma, is recalling 48,000 vials of Gentamicin Injection paediatric doses from the U.S. The Gentamicin Injection, USP, (paediatric), 20 mg per 2 mL, 2 mL Single-Dose Vial are manufactured in India, the latest enforcement report of the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) showed. It is a voluntary recall and initiated by the company on May 29.

Granules arm gets U.S. FDA observation resolved

Granules India on Saturday said subsidiary Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc. addressed and resolved a U.S. Food and Drug Administration observation during the same inspection when it was issued by the regulator. The U.S. FDA had completed a pre-approval inspection for a first to file controlled substance ANDA (abbreviated new drug application) at the facility of Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Chantilly, Virginia, USA from June 23-27 with one Form 483 observation.

India imposes land, sea port curbs on jute from Bangladesh

The order will not affect Bangladesh's exports to Nepal and Bhutan, but re-exports of the same from Nepal and Bhutan to India won't be allowed

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Weeks after imposing land ports restrictions to apparel exports from Bangladesh, India has ordered Jute from Bangladesh will not be allowed to enter India through land ports on India-Bangladesh border. A notification to that effect was issued on Friday by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade informing that the restrictions will apply "across all land and seaports" with the exception of the Nhava Sheva seaport in Mumbai.

Official sources informed that the port restrictions on "jute and allied fibre/products from Bangladesh" had been implemented with immediate effect.

"Jute from Bangladesh enjoys a duty free access to India. However, the Indian jute industry has, for long, suffered due to the adverse impact of dumped and subsidised imports of jute products – particularly yarn, fibre and bags – from Bangladesh," said an official source explaining the reason behind the imposition of entry ban on jute from Bangladesh.

India had imposed anti-dumping duties (ADD) on jute from Bangladesh but that did not reduce jute imports from Bangladesh due to continued subsidies by the Government of Bangladesh, said sources.

Sources further said India has been raising its concerns on jute before the authorities in Dhaka but Bangladesh only made "nominal adjustments" and continues to incentivise exports particularly in cases of "value-added jute products". Jute is produced in West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, and Meghalaya and jute industry employs around four lakh workers in organised mills and diversified units. "Artificially depressed prices caused by subsidised imports have had a direct and adverse impact on the income of jute farmers."

Friday's order includes flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garneted stock), jute and other textile bast fibers, single yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibers, woven fabrics or flax, unbleached woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibers. The order will not affect Bangladesh's exports to Nepal and Bhutan but re-exports of the same from Nepal and Bhutan to India will not be allowed.

"Bangladesh must not be allowed to persist with unfair trade practices that harm the livelihood of Indian farmers and mill workers in a sector that forms the economic backbone of dependent rural regions. The market access extended by India in good faith cannot be undermined to the detriment of India's economic interests," said an official while explaining the decision on land ports restrictions on jute from Bangladesh.

The Hindu was told that India will ensure that Bangladesh will not be able to access India's jute market via third countries, circumventing the restrictions.

No entry

Indian jute industry has, for long, suffered due to the adverse impact of dumped and subsidised imports of jute products from Bangladesh

- Jute from Bangladesh enjoys duty-free access to India
- Though India imposed anti-dumping duties on jute from Bangladesh, it did not reduce the imports
- This was due to continued subsidies by the Government of Bangladesh, said sources

Bangladesh pays $384 mn to Adani to clear major portion of power dues

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh paid $384 million to Adani Power in June, significantly reducing its outstanding dues under a power supply agreement with the Indian firm, according to sources.

In June (till June 27), Bangladesh has paid $384 million of the committed $437 million to be paid during the month, two sources aware of the matter said.

This would clear Bangladesh's "admitted" claims till March 31.

With this, Adani's "claimed" dues, while still substantial, will come down to around $500 million (assuming Bangladesh meets its month-end commitment), they said.

Financial struggle

Bangladesh has struggled to meet its payment obligations under the 2017 deal, as rising import costs following the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022 and domestic political turmoil – which led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina – strained the country's finances. As a result, Adani had halved supply last year and full supplies were resumed in March 2025 after the country's monthly payments started covering some of the dues.

With the latest payments, Bangladesh has paid nearly $1.5 billion of the roughly $2 billion total billed amount.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders to buy controlling stake in Colombo Dockyard

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Mazagon was shortlisted based on their experience in shipbuilding and financial strength, sources said

The Indian government-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has announced its decision to buy controlling stakes in Sri Lanka's Colombo Dockyard in a $52.96 million deal.

The proposed acquisition, MDL's first international venture, would give the Mumbai-based ship building yard 51% equity in the Sri Lankan PLC that is grappling with persisting losses.

A well-known ship repair, ship building, heavy engineering and offshore engineering facility in Sri Lanka, CDPLC has been saddled with debt over the years (over LKR 28 billion, or roughly ₹8 billion, in short and long term debt), Sri Lankan business newspaper the *Daily Financial Times* reported on Saturday, terming the Indian company's acquisition "highly beneficial" for India and Sri Lanka.

The transaction is expected to be completed in six months.

"Located in the Port of Colombo, Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC) gives MDL a strategic foothold in the Indian Ocean Region--a key maritime corridor," the MDL said in a statement. Colombo Dockyard was not immediately available for comment.

Last year, Japanese company Onomichi Dockyard, which held majority stakes in Colombo Dockyard, decided to exit from the firm. Colombo "urgently requested" New Delhi to "encourage Indian investors" to consider investing in Colombo Dockyard fearing the implications of a default, according to official sources from the Indian side. As per the due process followed for a listed company, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. was shortlisted based on their experience in shipbuilding and financial strength, the sources said.

China concerns

The development of an Indian company acquiring controlling stakes at the facility located within the Colombo Port, comes amid New Delhi's preoccupation with apparently growing Chinese outreach in the region.

Over the last few years, India raised concern with Sri Lanka multiple times, over Chinese research vessel visits to its ports, prompting Colombo to impose a moratorium on foreign research vessels. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's government has said it would evolve a new national policy on the visit of foreign vessels.

Retail sector may soon jump into 9-10% growth mode: RAI

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Kumar Rajagopalan

The Indian retail sector, pegged at $900 billion and growing at 5% currently, is expected to soon jump into a 9-10% growth pace, as markets seem ready with the right consumer base and increasing spending power, according to the Retailers' Association of India (RAI), a trade body which represents chain store retailers, independent retailers, e-commerce players and retail service/technology providers across the country.

"Immediately after the pandemic, the retail sector got into a 20% growth rate, but in the last one year the growth has slowed to 5%, but we expect the growth to get into 9% to 10% range soon," CEO Kumar Rajagopalan told *The Hindu*.

He said the emerging industry trends indicated increased consumption backed by the right consumer base and growing disposable incomes. "So, we are soon expecting a jump in the pace of growth from current levels to match the market demand. We've got the population to support." According to him, India's growth towards becoming the third-largest economy is making a significant difference. "So, everything is going towards better consumption, as per capita income increases, consumption increases. So I think there's a lot that's happening; however, the competitive framework of Indian retailing is also changing drastically," he added.

He further said the country's retail industry was increasingly becoming organised. For instance, 10 years ago, only 4% to 5% of the industry was under the organised category, while today, 17% of the total industry is organised.

"This conversion, from unorganised to organised, is happening on many fronts. Many of the traditional businesses are turning to be organised as the new generation takes over the leadership. Also, e-commerce is pushing the growth of organised businesses. Plus, various measures of the government are also encouraging retailers to get organised with the introduction of GST, digital money etc., streamlining and making retailing easier," he observed.

Commenting on the challenges faced by the industry, he said the industry knew the business was completely changing itself, with the omnichannel concept gaining wide acceptance. Customers were buying online as well as offline. He also said there was a huge amount of competition happening in the sector because the barriers to entry are completely shattered now. So the industry was trying to see how they could adapt themselves to the growing needs of fast-paced consumers of the modern day, Mr. Rajagopalan said.

Too soon to look past the risk of rising oil prices: FinMin report

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

'Insurance costs and risk of potential closure of choke points may cause the landed price to rise'

It is too soon to sound the 'all clear' on the risk of rising oil prices, even though the risk from the Israel-Iran conflict has receded following the ceasefire between the two countries, the Ministry of Finance said in a report.

According to the Monthly Economic Report (MER) for May 2025 released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Friday, the Israel-Iran war could have threatened India's growth and fiscal outlook for the current financial year 2025-26.

However, the two countries agreed to a ceasefire earlier this month and oil prices have since fallen by about 6-7%. "There is ample global supply of oil, but insurance costs and the perceived risk of potential closure of choke points might cause the landed price to rise," the report warned. "Therein lies the risk to India. For now, the risk has receded."

"But, it is too soon to sound the "all clear" for the rest of the year," it added. "But, then, we have to get used to doing the balancing act or the high-wire act for some time to come. In this, India is on a better footing than many other nations."

The Department of Economic Affairs report said that the Indian economy may experience "nervous but exciting times" in the days ahead.

The report said that the first two months of 2025-26 also point to resilience in economic activity.

E-comm firm Meesho gets shareholder nod to raise ₹4,250 cr. via IPO

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SoftBank-backed Meesho has received shareholders' approval to raise up to ₹4,250 crore through an initial public offering, according to the company's regulatory filing.

The resolution for IPO was passed in the EGM on June 25, the filing said.

According to the filing dated June 27, the shareholders approved raising up to ₹4,250 crore through issuance of fresh equities.

The development comes after Meesho completed its domicile shift to India from the U.S. The shareholders also approved a change in designation of Meesho Co-Founder and CEO Vidit Aatrey as chairman and MD of the company.

Digital fossil-mining reveals origin of squids hidden inside rocks

The Hindu Bureau

Squids are some of the smartest and most agile animals in today's oceans, but their evolutionary history has been hard to figure out because their soft bodies don't fossilise well.

A new study has changed this using a method called digital fossil-mining to uncover fossils that were hidden inside rocks.

Instead of using traditional tools, which often damage fragile rocks, scientists from Japan created a machine that slowly grinds a rock while taking detailed photographs of each layer. These images were stitched together to form a 3D model of everything inside the rock, including fossils.

The method enabled the team to detect and digitally extract small squid beaks, the hard, chitin-based mouthparts all squids have. By combining cutting-edge imaging with careful analysis of ancient rocks, the study has filled a big gap in the story of squid evolution. It was published in *Science*.

The team collected hard, round carbonate concretions from Cretaceous-era deposits in Japan dated 110-70 million years ago. These rocks were already known to preserve fossils well. From there, the team scanned and reconstructed 263 lower beaks from squids for further analysis.

The team found that the fossil beaks came from at least 40 squid species, divided among 23 genera and five families. This is a major discovery because previously only one fossil squid beak was known. The newfound squids belonged to two modern groups: deep-sea squids (*Oegopsida*) and coastal squids (*Myopsida*). It meant both groups existed as early as 100 million years ago, which is about 30 million years earlier than previously thought.

The earliest squids already had many different forms. Within only 6 million years, most known squid families had evolved, suggesting squids diversified very quickly once they appeared. By the Late Cretaceous, squids had become so abundant that their fossils outnumbered those of ammonites and bony fish.

The findings suggest squids became important players in marine ecosystems long before the mass extinction 66 million years ago that wiped out dinosaurs and many marine species. In fact, squids were already replacing shelled cephalopods like belemnites and ammonites by then.

The authors have also suggested that thanks to their rise before marine mammals, squids were early pioneers of contemporary ocean life: composed of fast, intelligent animals like modern fish, whales, and dolphins.

Large genetic map of Indians flags hidden disease risks

Using mutations as genetic clocks, the study also confirmed that present-day Indians descend primarily from a single out-of-Africa migration around 50,000 years ago

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

India's vast linguistic, cultural, and social diversity has long been evident, but only now are scientists beginning to uncover the genetic richness underpinning it. In a new study in *Cell*, researchers reported sequencing the genomes of 2,762 Indians from 23 States and Union Territories. The data captured variation across caste, tribal groups, language, geography, and rural-to-urban settings, offering the most comprehensive genomic map of India to date.

The findings are striking. The study reaffirmed the three primary sources of Indian ancestry and explored how this layered history, along with entrenched social practices, continues to shape health and disease risk today.

Using mutations as genetic clocks, the study confirmed that present-day Indians descend primarily from a single out-of-Africa migration around 50,000 years ago. Although archaeology suggests earlier human presence in the subcontinent, "those populations may not have survived or left lasting genetic traces," said Elise Kerdoncuff, the study's first author.

The researchers modelled Indian ancestry as a blend of three ancient populations: indigenous hunter-gatherers known as Ancient Ancestral South Indians; Iranian-related Neolithic farmers, best represented by fourth millennium BCE herders from Sarazm in present-day Tajikistan; and Eurasian Steppe pastoralists, who arrived around 2000 BCE and are associated with the spread of Indo-European languages. While most Indians fall along a genetic spectrum reflecting different proportions of this admixture, individuals from East and Northeast India, and a subset from Central India, carry East Asian-related ancestry, with levels reaching up to 5% in West Bengal. This likely entered around 520 CE, after the Gupta Empire's decline or with an earlier spread of rice farming.

India's population structure reflects long-standing practices of marriage within communities. This has produced strong founder effects, where a small ancestral gene pool gets amplified over generations. As a result, Indians, especially in South India, have 2-9x more homozygosity than Europeans or East Asians, making them more likely to inherit the same version of a gene from both parents. Every individual in the study had at least one genetic relative, indicating levels of relatedness far exceeding those seen elsewhere. This tight-knit structure may make recessive disorders caused by inheriting faulty copies of the same gene from both parents more common than currently recognised.

One example is a pathogenic *BCHE* variant linked to severe anaesthetic reactions found enriched in Telangana.

Like all non-Africans, Indians carry traces of ancient interbreeding with other hominins, with Neanderthal or Denisovan segments covering up to 1.5% of the genome in some Indians. They also have the widest variety of Neanderthal segments. "Multiple waves of migration, followed by caste-based endogamy, likely fixed archaic segments within specific groups, contributing to this high diversity," Lomous Kumar, population geneticist at the Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse, France, said.

Neanderthal-derived sequences are enriched in immune system genes. A region on chromosome 3 (linked to severe COVID-19) is especially common in East and Northeast India. Denisovan variants appear in immune-related pathways and regions such as the MHC, a key genomic region involved in detecting and fighting infections. "Enrichments in *TRIM* and *BTNL2*, involved in mounting immune responses to viruses, suggests that some variants were retained because they conferred an adaptive advantage," Dr. Kerdoncuff said. "As humans moved into new environments, inheriting these variations from archaic populations likely helped them adapt to unfamiliar pathogens."

The researchers uncovered 2.6 crore undocumented genetic variants. Of these, over 1.6 lakh were protein-altering variants absent from global databases and about 7% were linked to thalassemia, congenital deafness, cystic fibrosis, and metabolic disorders. "This highlights how neglected Indians are in genomic surveys," Dr. Kerdoncuff said, "limiting scientific discovery and reducing the accuracy of risk predictions. The promise of precision medicine for underrepresented populations ultimately suffers." Dr. Kumar added: "Within India as well, population-specific rare and unique variants continue to make the scenario complex," emphasising localised efforts are also imperative.

To help close this gap, Dr. Kerdoncuff said, the team is expanding the study to include more genetically isolated communities. They're also studying proteins and metabolism to better understand how genes influence health outcomes. In parallel, they're developing new tools to trace the origins of disease-linked genes in Indian populations.

To make medicine truly inclusive, India's vast genetic diversity must be central to global research and matched by deeper, community-level efforts at home.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi)

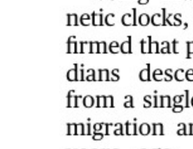
Past continuous

India's deep genetic past is still shaping contemporary Indians' health

- Scientists sequenced the genomes of 2,762 Indians in 23 regions, revealing a detailed genetic map of India
- Most Indians mix hunter-gatherer, Iranian farmer, and Steppe herder roots, with eastern groups adding East Asian ancestry
- Strict marriage within communities increases shared genes, boosting chances of recessive diseases like dangerous anaesthetic reactions
- Indian genomes hold diverse Neanderthal and Denisovan segments, including a chromosome 3 piece that raises COVID-19 risk

- Researchers discovered 2.6 crore new variants, many altering proteins and tied to thalassemia, deafness, and metabolic disorders
- Scientists call for bigger, more community-focused studies so precision medicine fairly serves India's immense genetic diversity

The greening of our chemical industries



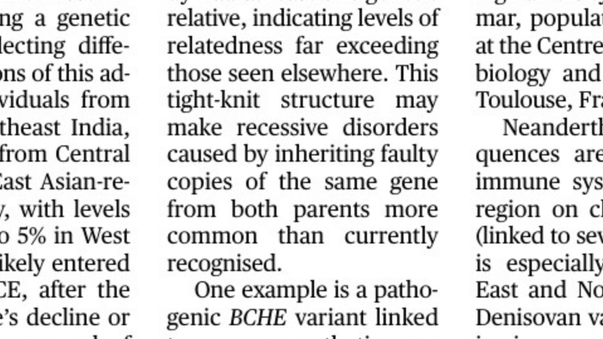
SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Deepening concerns over the warming of our planet have made "green" and "sustainable" popular words. 'Going green' means taking steps to lessen harm to the environment. Sustainability aims for changes that balance environmental concerns with economic realities.

Whatever term you use, the shared goal of minimising or eliminating environmental hazards points us towards green chemistry. And this field leads us away from toxicity and pollution. The 12 Principles of Green Chemistry, introduced by Paul Anastas and John Warner in 1998, focus on basics, such as the adoption of safer solvents and reagents in chemical processes; designing energy-efficient methods that lead to safer chemicals that are as nontoxic as possible and also do not linger for too long in the environment; and preventing waste (so that you don't have anything to clean up).

An illustration of how green chemistry can be put to work comes from the production of biodiesel. The Indian Oil Corporation, as part of a green fuels mission, produces biodiesel from non-edible oil seeds such as Jatropha (jamal ghota in Hindi and kattukkotai in Tamil). The seeds have over 30% oil content, and the tree grows in lands with little rainfall and poor soils. Biodiesel is produced from a transesterification reaction, where the seed oil is reacted with methanol to yield biodiesel and the by-product glycerol, which is commercially useful. For reducing the carbon footprint, the methanol must be derived from biomass.



A jatropha demonstration plot developed by Labland Biodiesel, a Mysuru-based company, near Mysuru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chemical reactions are sped up by catalysts. Biodiesel production is facilitated by an alkali. Sodium hydroxide is often used, but washing it away generates wastewater, which has to be treated before it is released into the environment. Calcium oxide is a greener alternative because it is a solid, and 95% of it can be recovered after each production cycle.

Very toxic substances are used in the manufacture of pharma products as well. In the vicinity of some of these factories, the air has a strong smell that reminds you of nail-polish: the solvent toluene is widely used in the synthesis or extraction of paracetamol and many other drugs. It is a neurotoxin. Green initiatives have led to a slow replacement of such volatile organic compounds with alternatives that are less toxic, biodegradable, and can be produced from biomass sources like sugarcane.

Another tenet of green chemistry that chemists love to work towards is the atom economy. The aim is to incorporate as many atoms present in the input mixture into the desirable product. In the biodiesel production process described above, green chemistry results in an atom economy of 90%. It is not 100% because of the atoms that are 'taken away' in the byproduct, glycerol. But then, in a sustainable initiative, the glycerol would itself serve as an input for making polymers, cosmetics, etc.

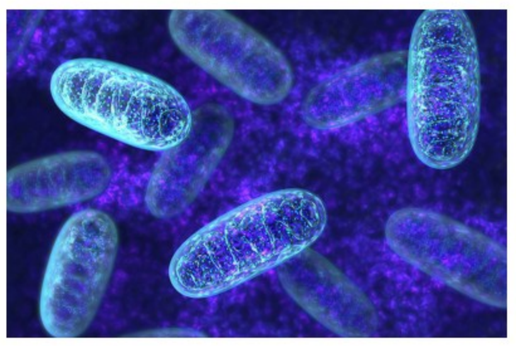
Attention to atom economy is even more critical in industries where the by-products are very toxic. A fine example of green chemistry's superiority has come from chemists at the Hyderabad campus of the Birla Institute of Science-Pilani. Their green method for pharmaceutical production of the anti-cancer drug Tamoxifen and related drug candidates has 100% atom economy while being cost-effective and capable of making these drugs in large quantities (Tanmay Chatterjee and colleagues, *Green Chem.*, 2023, Vol. 25, 779). Such methods hold the promise of reduced impact on our surroundings.

(Jointly written with Sushil Chandani, a molecular modeler)

SNAPSHOTS

Computer vision research fed surveillance technologies

Researchers who scanned 19,000+ papers and 23,000 patents found that since the 1990s, the fraction of papers used in surveillance-enabling patents jumped from 53% to 78%. The trend wasn't restricted to a few bad apples: most major universities, tech firms, countries, and research subfields produced work that ultimately powered surveillance tools. The study argued that modern computer-vision research has become a pipeline feeding surveillance, and that changing course will require conscious, ethical interventions.



New tool can rewrite single letters in mitochondrial DNA

Dutch scientists have tested a base-editor that can rewrite single letters in mitochondrial DNA, a place that CRISPR-based tools haven't been able to access. They were able to use it to correct a harmful mutation in skin cells from a patient. Cells with roughly 80% correction regained normal membrane potential, a sign of healthier energy output. To move towards therapy, the team delivered the editors as mRNA wrapped in lipid nanoparticles, boosting the editor's efficacy while causing fewer off-target changes.

Process makes lactic acid from 'solar' methanol

Industrial production of L-lactic acid banks on food feedstock. New research could change this. Scientists used CO2, water, and green energy to make methanol, from which a photocatalyst removed hydrogen to yield formaldehyde. An organocatalyst attached it to dihydroxyacetone, which an engineered yeast fermented into L-lactic acid with a 99% conversion ratio. The team estimated the process's energy efficiency was 7x higher than photosynthesis.

Question Corner

Cramped muscles

What are muscle cramps?

A cramp is a sudden, involuntary tightening of a muscle or a group of muscles that a person can't immediately relax.

Because the muscle locks up all at once, it often feels like a sharp knot and can hurt for a while.

Muscle cramps occur in parts of the legs or hands as a result of dehydration, exercise or low potassium or magnesium levels.

Menstrual cramps in the uterus are hormone-driven contractions to expel the uterine lining. Stomach cramps occur due to gas, infections and/or in people with irritable bowel syndrome.

In all cases, a cramp occurs when muscle cells have become stressed and start to misfire. People are at greater risk of cramped muscles if they have diabetes, thyroid problems or kidney disease or if they're taking particular drugs. To relieve a cramped muscle, doctors have advised pausing the stress-causing activity and gently stretching the muscle, massaging the area, applying heat to relax the tightness, and drinking lots of water. It also helps to warm up before the activity to prepare the muscles.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Where does India lag in gender metrics?

What is India's standing in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for 2025?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

India dropped two places in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for 2025, slipping to the 131st rank out of 148 countries. While the gender gap has narrowed or remained stable in the case of three categories – economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival – it has worsened in the case of political empowerment. At a time when rising numbers of women are voting in elections, the number of women in the highest halls of power remain stubbornly low. This is set to change in 2029, when mandatory 33% reservation for women in State and national legislatures is set to kick in, but steps need to be taken to ensure the benefits of this law extend to the long term.

What led to the drop?

The Index uses three indicators to assess political empowerment, with India falling in two – the percentage of women in Parliament, which dropped from 14.7% (78 MPs) in 2024 to 13.79% (74 MPs) in 2025 after the general election for the 18th Lok Sabha; and the percentage of women in ministerial positions, which dropped from an already abysmal 6.45% in 2024 to just 5.56% in 2025.

What will change after women's reservation?

The legislation for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in State legislatures was passed after a long wait in 2023, but as it is tied to a new Census and delimitation exercise, it can only be implemented from the 2029 general election at the earliest. Women's representation in the Lok Sabha has ranged from 3.4% in 1977 to 14% in 2019. At the time of the passage of the women's reservation legislation in 2023, women accounted for only 9% of MLAs in State Assemblies, with Chhattisgarh having the highest representation (18% women MLAs), while Himachal Pradesh had just one woman MLA and Mizoram had none. Jacking these figures up to at least 33% will give a significant boost to India's political empowerment scores.

> While more women may become MPs in India, it remains to be seen if ruling parties also appoint them to ministerial roles in higher numbers

The catch is that reservation is only valid for 15 years from the time the law passes, meaning that it is likely to be implemented in only two general election cycles, 2029 and 2034, raising concerns about the sustainability of gains women would make in this period. Also, while more women may become MPs, it remains to be seen if ruling parties also appoint them to ministerial roles in higher numbers, increasing their representation in actual governance. Despite the three-decade old 33% reservation for women at the panchayat and municipality level, which has been increased to 50% in most States, there is no clear pipeline to draw such local leaders into State-level politics.

Does the rise in women voters matter?

Back in 1952, 28 lakh women were excluded from voting in the general election as they were listed on the electoral rolls only as someone's mother or wife, with their own names missing. The gender gap among voters has narrowed speedily since then, from 17 percentage points in 1962 to less than two percentage points in 2014. In fact, in the last two general elections, women voters have actually overtaken men, though this can also be partially attributed to rising male migration for employment, leaving men unable to vote in their home States. The rising numbers of women voting has led to political parties wooing women as a votebank, with a slew of welfare schemes aimed at women, ranging from free bicycles for girls to a monthly allowance for poorer women.

How to increase women candidates?

The trend with respect to women voters, however, has not translated into an increase in women's representation. "Political parties continue to give lower representation to women candidates in so-called 'good seats', often citing a lack of winnability," says Rahul Verma, a political scientist at the Centre for Policy Research, noting that many parties field women in seats reserved for Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates, in a bid to offset that quota.

"Women voters do not automatically vote for women candidates. Gender is not like caste, where voters may vote on the basis of identity. Women are much more practical, looking for actual programmatic delivery," says Tara Krishnaswamy of Political Shakti, a non-partisan group working to improve women's representation in politics. However, she dismisses parties' excuses that women candidates are not winnable. "In every general election since 1952, women candidates have had a higher winning percentage in comparison to men. The problem is that women do not make it to the candidates list... Women candidates in the lists of recognised parties average about 8% or 9%," she says.

What are the issues around deportation?

Why is there a distinction to be made between people who are being deported and those who are being pushed back? What are the different laws that deal with immigration and foreigners in India? What is the situation on the ground in border States such as Assam and West Bengal?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

At least seven West Bengal residents who were pushed to Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF) on suspicion of being Bangladeshis were brought back to India after the intervention of the State government. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on June 25 that residents speaking in their native Bengali language are being branded as Bangladeshis in some Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States. Several people who were pushed from Assam to Bangladesh also returned as they were found to be Indians or that their citizenship cases were sub-judice.

Why have matters escalated?

After the regime change in Bangladesh in August 2024, the police across the country were asked by the Union Home Ministry to detect Bangladeshis who had illegally entered the country and were living here on forged documents. The drive assumed momentum after the Pahalgam terror attack in April and the subsequent 'Operation Sindoor'. The Ministry has issued instructions to States to deport undocumented migrants but in most cases pushbacks are happening. Around 2,500 suspected Bangladeshis have been pushed back so far. On May 10, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government has decided to implement the "pushback" mechanism to check infiltration instead of going through the legal route which is a long-drawn process. Home Minister Amit Shah has asked top intelligence officials to make an example of "infiltrators" by detecting, detaining, and deporting them. In 2022, at an Intelligence Bureau meeting, Mr. Shah had asked officials to identify around 100 illegal migrants in each State, check documents and arrest and deport them. He asked them to continue with the crackdown even if neighbouring countries do not accept the undocumented migrants.

> Assam is likely to enforce a 1950 law to identify and evict illegal foreigners

No due process: BSF women personnel patrol along the fence on the Bangladesh border at Golakganj in Dhubri district in Assam on May 26. AFP

What is the difference between deportation and pushback?

Deportation is a legal process which involves detaining and arresting a foreigner suspected to be living in India without documents or who has entered the country illegally. The case is presented before a court and after exhaustion of all legal avenues, which includes conviction by the court, the country which the foreigner belongs to is contacted and the deportation takes places once the identity is confirmed. Pushbacks are not a legal procedure and there are no stated rules. They happen when a foreigner has been caught by the border security force on the international border and, depending on the intensity of the case or the discretion of the border personnel, they are either arrested, made to face the law here or pushed back. Since citizenship and foreigners are Union List subjects, it is the Home Ministry which delegates powers to deport foreigners to State governments. In 2024, the Ministry told the Jharkhand High Court that since the "Central Government does not maintain a separate federal police force exclusively dedicated to the task of detection and deportation of illegally staying foreigners, action in this regard has been entrusted to the State police."

What is the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950?

On June 9, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government was likely to enforce a 1950 law to identify and evict illegal foreigners, adding that under the law, district commissioners are empowered to declare individuals as illegal immigrants and initiate eviction proceedings. The 1950 Act was passed by Parliament amid communal disturbance and violence following the Partition of India in 1947 and creation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) bordering West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Act says that "it extends to the whole of India", but has Assam-specific provisions. Section 2 of the Act says that if the Union government is of the opinion that any person or class of persons, having been ordinarily resident in any place outside India are detrimental to the interests of the general public of India or any Scheduled Tribe in Assam, the Union government may by order, "direct such person or class of persons to remove himself or themselves from India or Assam within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order"; and "give such further directions in regard to his or their removal from India or Assam as it may consider necessary or expedient".

What are the laws for foreigners?

Till April this year, matters relating to foreigners and immigration were administered through "pre-Constitution period" laws enacted during the First and Second World Wars, which were the Foreigners Act, 1946, Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. In April, Parliament enacted the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 repealing the old laws.

Unlike Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, the rules for movement of people along Nepal and Myanmar are different. Nepal has a free-border agreement with India, and a Free Movement regime (FMR), allowing movement of people residing within 10-km on either side, exists along the India-Myanmar border. Following the May 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, the Ministry in 2024 decided to fence the entire 1,643-km Myanmar border in the next 10 years. Post the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, over 40,000 refugees from Myanmar belonging to the Chin ethnic group who are closely related to the Mizo community crossed over to Mizoram. On March 10, 2021, the MHA sent a letter to the State governments of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram that the refugees should be identified and deported and that the State Governments have no powers to grant "refugee" status to any foreigner as India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol. The refugees continue to live here.

What is behind this recent drive?

Since the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam, the police has intensified the drive to detect undocumented migrants. Initially, they were taken by trains to border districts and then pushed to Bangladesh by the BSF. In some instances, migrants after being up picked from Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, were flown by planes to Agartala in Tripura and transported to the Bangladesh border by BSF personnel. The police and the BSF record biometrics and photographs of the undocumented migrants. It is to be noted that the BSF has never acknowledged any of the pushbacks. The Ministry has asked the States to verify the claims of undocumented migrants who claim Indian nationality after which District Magistrates are to send a report within 30 days, failing which the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer would deport them. In 2022, the Unique Identification Authority of India was asked to maintain a "negative list" to stop undocumented migrants from procuring identity documents in the future.

What is the legality of U.S. strikes on Iran?

When can a country retaliate in self-defence under the UN Charter? Why have some nations argued that the conditions are too rigid to address contemporary security threats? What is pre-emptive self-defence? Is this allowed by international law?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On June 22, U.S. President Donald Trump launched military strikes on Iran, joining its ally Israel in efforts to derail Iran's nuclear programme, which both countries claim is approaching weapons production. Iran retaliated the following day with missile attacks on Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the forward headquarters of U.S. Central Command. After nearly two weeks of escalating hostilities, Iran and Israel agreed to a ceasefire on June 24.

What is a lawful exercise of self-defence?

The UN Charter, under Article 2(4), prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, except in narrowly defined circumstances – a claim of self-defence under Article 51 or with the UN Security Council's (UNSC) authorisation. The restrictive interpretation, grounded in the text of Article 51, permits self-defence only in response to an armed attack that is already under way. A more permissive interpretation allows for self-defence in response to an armed attack that is imminent. This broader interpretation, often referred to as anticipatory self-defence, has been endorsed in several UN-affiliated reports.

> 'Criteria for determining an imminent threat remain highly contested'

Unilateral force: Delegates attend a meeting of the UNSC, following the U.S. attack on Iran, at the UN headquarters in New York on June 24. REUTERS

Notably, the 2004 report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change affirmed that "a threatened State, according to long-established international law, can take military action as long as the threatened attack is imminent, no other means would deflect it, and the action is proportionate". These criteria are derived from the famous Caroline case, which established that the use of force is lawful only when the need for self-defence is "instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation". Over time, many states have argued that the Caroline standard is too rigid to address contemporary security threats. This has led to attempts to reinterpret and expand the notion of imminence, giving rise to the controversial doctrine of pre-emptive self-defence. Under this doctrine, a state may use force not only in response to an attack that is imminent but also during what is perceived as the "last window of opportunity" to neutralise a threat posed by an adversary with both the intent and capability to strike. The U.S. has been a leading proponent of this doctrine, invoking it to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq. "Pre-emptive self-defence lacks the requisite state practice and *opinio juris* to qualify as customary international law. States are generally reluctant to endorse its legality, as the absence of an imminent threat renders the doctrine highly susceptible to misuse," Prabhash Ranjan, Professor at Jindal Global Law School, told *The Hindu*.

Did Iran pose an 'imminent' threat?

The U.S. has not submitted an Article 51 notification to the UNSC declaring its strikes on Iran as self-defence. However, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth described them as a precision operation to neutralise "threats to national interest" and an act of "collective self-defence" of U.S. forces and its ally, Israel.

Tehran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes and remains under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, on June 12, the UN nuclear watchdog passed a resolution accusing Iran of violating its non-proliferation obligations, while noting that inspectors have been unable to confirm whether the programme is "exclusively peaceful".

In March, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard initially told Congress that while Iran had stockpiled materials, it was not actively building a nuclear weapon. However, she later warned that Iran could do so "within weeks," after President Trump claimed Iran could develop one "within months."

Dr. Ranjan noted that the criteria for determining an 'imminent threat' remain highly contested, as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has never ruled on the legality of anticipatory self-defence or pre-emptive strikes. "For the U.S. to credibly invoke pre-emptive self-defence, it must present clear evidence of both Iran's intent and capability to strike in the near future. This is a difficult threshold to meet, given that Iran does not yet possess a nuclear weapon," he said. He added that ongoing U.S.-Iran negotiations indicate that diplomatic means were still available.

What about collective self-defence?

Under Article 51 of the Charter, Israel can call on the assistance of its allies to exercise collective self-defence against an attack. "Israel's strikes on Iran, framed as pre-emptive action against perceived nuclear threats, are legally suspect. This, in turn, casts doubt on the legitimacy of any claim to collective self-defence," Dr. Ranjan said. Israel has also sought to justify its military offensive as part of an "ongoing armed conflict," citing a history of attacks by groups like Hamas and the Houthis, which it claims act as Iranian proxies. However, to legally sustain this argument, Israel must meet the "effective control" test set by the ICJ in *Nicaragua versus U.S.* (1986). This is a high threshold to meet since it requires proof that Iran exercises "overall control" over these groups beyond merely funding or arming them.

What are the implications?

Allowing states to invoke pre-emptive self-defence would effectively grant powerful nations the licence to unilaterally use force based on mere conjecture. This would further weaken the already fragile rules-based international order. It is, therefore, crucial to resist expanding legal definitions of what constitutes an imminent threat, particularly when punitive action by the UNSC against permanent members like the U.S. remains unlikely due to their veto power.

Manhattan's progressive man

Zohran Mamdani

The Democrat ran a grassroots campaign focusing on livelihood-based 'bread-and-butter economic issues' and upholding principled positions, such as his strong opposition to Israel's 'genocide' in Gaza, to take lead in the New York mayoral primary

Srinivasan Ramani

In a stunning political upset that has caught the eye of political observers and could potentially upend the Democratic Party in the U.S., a new progressive star has emerged: Zohran Kwame Mamdani, the presumptive winner of the New York City mayoral primary.

For an Indian progressive uninitiated in American politics, the name Zohran Kwame Mamdani will invoke references to two familiar figures. The 33-year-old is the son of noted postcolonial theorist and academic Mahmood Mamdani, who has written extensively on the legacy of colonialism in Africa, and acclaimed film director Mira Nair. His middle name is, of course, a reference to Kwame Nkrumah, the Ghanaian Pan-Africanist revolutionary leader. But now the younger Mamdani has become a name to be reckoned with on his own accord.

By defeating a formidable establishment figure – former Governor Andrew Cuomo – in the New York City mayoral Democratic primary race, Mr. Mamdani has catalysed sharp discourse within the fractured and soul-searching Democratic Party, still reeling from stinging defeats in the presidential and Congressional races in 2024 that heralded the Trump 2.0 era. New York is largely a Democratic stronghold, and the winner of the primary typically goes on to win the mayoral race. In the November Mayoral election, Mr. Mamdani will take on the incumbent, the unpopular Eric Adams, who is expected to run as an independent.

Mr. Mamdani's political career is relatively short – he was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 2020. In the State capital of Albany, he joined a small group of lawmakers affiliated with the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), a progressive and socialist organisation that was formed in 1982 but truly took flight during Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign in 2016. Since then, it has emerged as a major leftist pressure group operating both within and outside the Democratic Party. Mr. Mamdani's victory is reminiscent of a similar triumph in New York when Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (fondly known as AOC) won a Congressional election in the city's 14th district in 2018.

While Mr. Mamdani's legislative record is relatively modest in terms of Bills passed, his colleagues acknowledge that his work helped shift the Assembly's ideological emphasis to the left. If elected, Mr. Mamdani would be the city's youngest Mayor since 1917 and the first Muslim to hold the post.

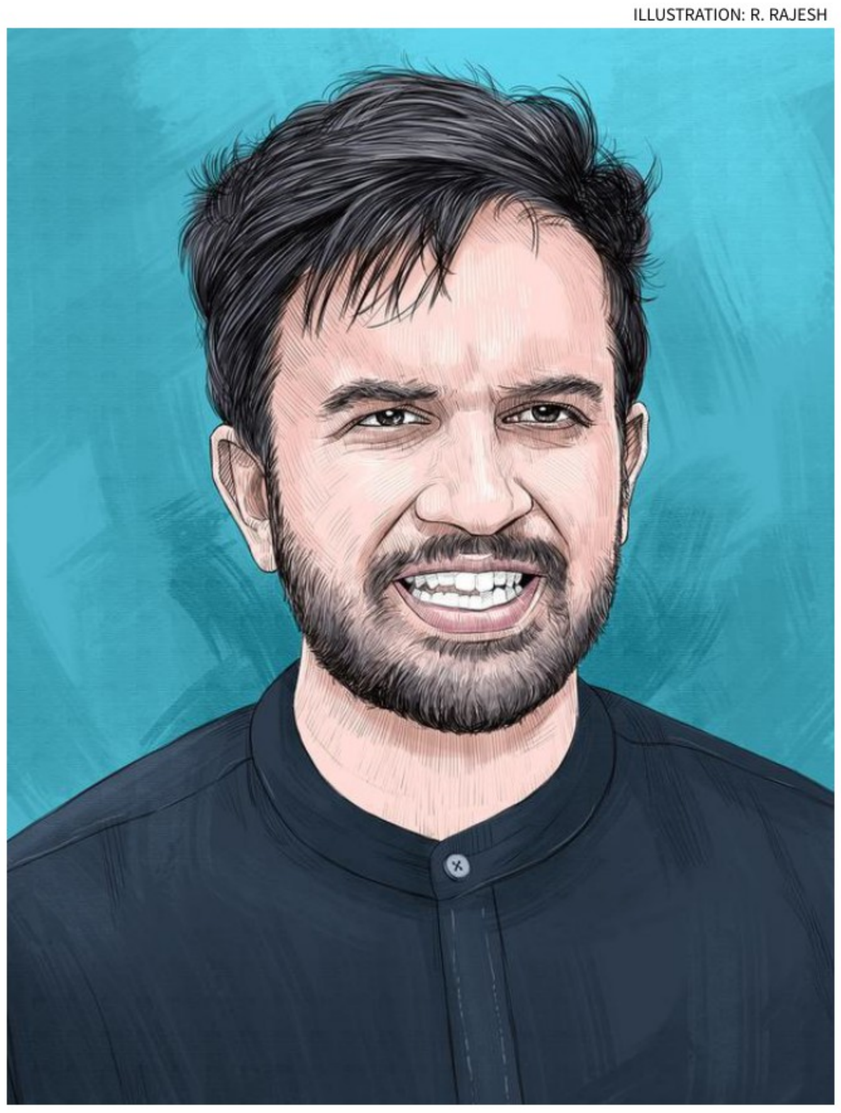
Mr. Mamdani's victory was no mean feat. He had to overcome the challenge posed by a candidate with extensive political experience – former two-term New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. Mr. Cuomo has deep establishment ties and was endorsed by multi-billionaire Michael Bloomberg and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, among others. He was also backed by a super Political Action Committee that raised $25 million to bankroll his candidacy. The fact that Mr. Cuomo had resigned from his gubernatorial duties a few years ago after being embroiled in sexual harassment cases did not deter him from attempting to obscure this record while running a conventional campaign that featured attack ads targeting Mr. Mamdani's identity and views.

Grassroots mobilisation

Mr. Mamdani overcame these challenges by relying on massive grassroots mobilisation – reportedly 50,000 volunteers organised by the DSA's New York Chapter conducted a door-to-door campaign that reached an astounding 1.5 million doors. Focusing on one key issue – "affordability" in New York's high-cost economy – Mr. Mamdani pledged to address this through a series of concrete measures. These included freezing rents for nearly a million New Yorkers in rent-stabilised apartments, providing free city buses (based on a pilot programme he had helped start as a lawmaker), creating city-owned grocery stores that would keep food costs low by buying wholesale and operating on city land, and providing childcare for infants and toddlers.

The focus on livelihood-based "bread-and-butter economic issues" helped his campaign build a broad

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



coalition of support, including in neighbourhoods that were won by Donald Trump in the 2024 elections. Notably, Mr. Mamdani's message was tailored to redirect working-class frustration away from the Right's targets – immigrants and marginalised groups – toward a different culprit: billionaires. The endorsements by the doyen of the American democratic Left, Bernie Sanders, and its key public figure, AOC, also bolstered his candidacy.

Interestingly, Mr. Mamdani managed to register a strong win while unapologetically taking a pro-Palestine position, accusing Israel of committing "apartheid and genocide in Gaza", supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, and openly embracing his Muslim identity. This stood in sharp contrast to the Democratic Presidential campaign in 2024, where candidate Kamala Harris tacked to the right of centre, refused to halt arms sales to Israel, and did not allow a Palestinian voice to speak at the Democratic Convention. In many ways, Mr. Mamdani's campaign – focused on welfare issues while celebrating his identity as the son of immigrant parents and a practising Muslim – represented everything the Trump administration has demonised during its current tenure.

Seen in this light, Mr. Mamdani's victory could possibly be the biggest win for the democratic socialist movement that has taken root in U.S. cities since Mr. Sanders's national campaign. It offers a boost to a demoralised American Left caught between the right-wing populism of Mr. Trump (which has attracted segments of the traditional working class) and what critics see as the vapid centrism of the Democratic Party establishment that refuses to change course, particularly on foreign policy.

Inevitably, the question arises: Is Mr. Mamdani's win a blueprint for future success for the beleaguered Democratic Party? His campaign – combining modern social media tools with traditional door-to-door campaigning – managed to generate broad support across a sprawling urban metropolis, offering lessons for other Democratic mobilisations in similar environments across the U.S. A freewheeling, accessible style is clearly a more effective approach than the carefully scripted strategy that cost Democrats in 2024.

Road ahead

Yet, challenges remain. Republicans are already working to brand Mr. Mamdani as the radical face of the Democratic Party, while the media establishment that supports the GOP has sought to use his identity to tarnish his record, with one Republican Congress representative's fundraising appeal branding him as a "Hamas Terrorist sympathiser". His brand of democratic socialism may indeed prove a difficult sell in the small towns and red bastions of middle America.

Ultimately, Mr. Mamdani's victory may be less a simple blueprint to be copied and more a mirror held up to the Democratic Party. It has forced a reckoning, proving that a campaign centred on economic justice and unapologetic principles can generate a powerful movement. The question for party leadership is not whether they can perfectly replicate a New York City race, but whether they are willing to embrace the grassroots energy, class-based populism, and bold vision that this stunning victory represents. The future of the party may well depend on their answer.

THE GIST

- Zohran Mamdani, 33, was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 2020. In the State capital of Albany, he joined a small group of lawmakers affiliated with the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).
- While Mamdani's legislative record is relatively modest in terms of Bills passed, his colleagues acknowledge that his work helped shift the Assembly's ideological emphasis to the Left.
- If elected, Mamdani, the son of postcolonial theorist Mahmood Mamdani and film director Mira Nair, would be New York's youngest Mayor since 1917 and the first Muslim to hold the post.

Excavating the past

Keeladi

Findings at the excavation site in Sivaganga district offer compelling evidence that urban civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam age

B. Kolappan

A newly laid road runs through Keeladi, a village in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu, that has now earned a significant place on India's political and cultural map. A steady stream of visitors, particularly students, flock to the state-of-the-art museum established by the Tamil Nadu government which showcases the findings from the Keeladi excavation site.

On the other side of the village, nestled among coconut groves, workers under the supervision of archaeologists continue to excavate land once believed to have been a thriving industrial hub. Square-shaped trenches reveal remnants of furnaces containing soot and ash, confirming that Keeladi was a centre for manufacturing beads made from quartz, carnelian, glass, agate, and other materials. Carbon dating of charcoal discovered at the site in February 2017 established that the settlement dates back to 6th century BCE. These excavations offer compelling evidence that urban civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam age. The findings also indicate trade and cultural exchange with the Indus Valley Civilisation.

For Tamil Nadu politicians, particularly the leaders of the ruling DMK, the findings provided the much-needed grist for their political narrative. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in January this year announced a $1 million prize for experts or organisations that succeed in deciphering the script of the Indus Valley Civilisation, pointing out that 60% of the graffiti marks found in Tamil Nadu had parallels to the symbols found on Indus seals.

Long-standing divide

The findings also fuelled the long-standing Aryan-Dravidian divide, and some expressed reservations about accepting the findings from Keeladi. This was followed by the transfer of archaeologist Amarnath Ramakrishna of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), who led the first two phases of the excavation, to Assam in 2017. The third phase was overseen by another archaeologist, P.S. Sriraman, who reported that there was no continuity in the brick structures. Excavations resumed only after the intervention of the Madras High Court. The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology also took up the project and, in its report, asserted that Keeladi was once a site of urban civilisation, a claim that remains a point of contention among archaeologists.

Those who dispute the claim of an urban settlement point to sites such as Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, and others in Gujarat, which, they argue, "bear testimony to the existence of an urban civilisation," whereas Keeladi, they contend, is just another excavation site without sufficient evidence to qualify as an urban centre.

The return of the 982-page report by Amarnath Ramakrishna of the ASI, with instructions to provide further evidence and rewrite it, stirred yet another controversy. In Tamil Nadu, this move is perceived as indicative of the BJP-led NDA government's bias against discoveries emerging from the South.

The current dispensation at the Centre is seen as reluctant to accept anything projected as superior to the Indo-Aryan heritage. Given the Centre's stance on Indian culture, language, and religion, the ASI's directive to Mr. Ramakrishna and his subsequent transfer is viewed with suspicion – even if there is a genuine academic basis for it.

Mr. Ramakrishna, rather than pursuing the matter through academic channels, has joined the chorus of Tamil Nadu politicians, though many believe the Centre's motives are clear for all to see. Mr. Ramakrishna, from the beginning, has been maintaining that there has been no evidence for religious worship.

What remains undisputed is the need for extensive excavation in Keeladi and surrounding areas. Madurai and its neighbouring regions along the banks of the Vaigai are undeniably ancient settlements. It is crucial to have excavations on the scale of those at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro to substantiate the claim of a flourishing urban civilisation in Tamil Nadu. The ASI has the responsibility of undertaking this effort with the support of the Tamil Nadu government.

Iran's man at the table

Abbas Araghchi

As a fragile ceasefire between Tehran and Tel Aviv holds, Iran's top diplomat has to strengthen ties with allies and manage relations with rivals

Suchitra Karthikeyan

"It was the U.S. which betrayed diplomacy, but it is Iran which must return to the table!" questioned Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in his address to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Istanbul on June 22, immediately after the U.S. bombed Iran's three nuclear facilities – Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow. Set against Israel and the U.S., his job was to tell the Islamic world how Iran was betrayed by the same powers with whom it was talking.

A former member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Mr. Araghchi rose through the ranks of Tehran's foreign affairs between 1988 and 2013. Joining the IRGC during the 1979 resolution, Mr. Araghchi was reportedly chosen to be a part of the 'Quds Force', the IRGC's external affairs branch.

While Mr. Araghchi has denied his role in the Quds Force, he was inducted into Iran's Foreign Ministry as an expert in international affairs in 1989. He had served as Iran's Ambassador in Finland, Estonia and Japan, before he was made the official spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry.

In 2013, Mr. Araghchi was made Iran's chief negotiator to hold talks with the 'P5+1' group (the U.S., China, France, Russia, the U.K and Germany) on its nuclear programme. After 20 months of talks, Mr. Araghchi was successful in getting all parties to agree to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was signed in 2015.

Iran was given relief in economic sanctions and was allowed to have a limited nuclear programme under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The U.S., however, unilaterally pulled out of the JCPOA in 2018 under Donald Trump.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Israel offensive

After the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, Iran's then Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian asserted that Tehran had no prior knowledge of the attack. Israel expanded the conflict by attacking Iran's ally in Lebanon, Hezbollah, and killing IRGC commanders in Syria. Houthis, Iran-backed rebels in Yemen, attacked tankers in the Red Sea. In April 2024, in retaliation for an Israeli strike on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Tehran launched ballistic missiles at Israel. On May 19, 2024, a helicopter carrying Amir-Abdollahian and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi crashed near the Iran-Azerbaijan border and Mr. Araghchi was chosen as the country's top diplomat in the Masoud Pezeshkian government. As Israeli airstrikes killed more Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, Iran launched its second direct attack on Israel in October that year, warning Israel to end its attack across its borders. Israel retaliated with air strikes.

After Donald Trump returned to the White House, the U.S. offered dialogue to Iran, which Tehran accepted. On April 13, 2025, Mr. Araghchi held the first round of talks with Trump officials in Oman over the nuclear programme. "It was a constructive meeting held in a very peaceful and respectful environment," opined Mr. Araghchi. They met five times. On June 13, two days ahead of the sixth round of talks, Israel launched a massive attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, scientists and military leaders. On June 22, the U.S. joined Israel's war. Mr. Trump later claimed that U.S. strikes 'obliterated' Iran's nuclear programme. He also announced a ceasefire on Israel and Iran, after an Iranian attack at the American base in Qatar on June 23.

"Our nuclear installations have been badly damaged," said Mr. Araghchi, accusing the U.S. of 'attacking the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of a UN member state'.

Leaked U.S. Intelligence reports suggest that the U.S.-Israeli attack set back Iran's nuclear programme by a few months. Despite Mr. Trump's claims that talks with Iran would resume, Mr. Araghchi stated that Iran has no plan to meet with the U.S. over a nuclear deal, adding, "we know our worth, value our independence, and never allow anyone else to decide our destiny". As Iran recovers from the war, the challenge before Mr. Araghchi is to strengthen ties with the allies and manage ties with the rivals in a such a way that further external aggression would be prevented at least in the near future.

SANAA

Missile launched by Houthis is 'most likely' intercepted, says Israel

REUTERS

The Israeli Army said on Saturday that a missile fired from Yemen towards Israeli territory had been "most likely successfully intercepted", while Yemen's Houthi forces claimed responsibility for the launch. Israel has threatened the Iran-aligned Houthi movement with a naval and air blockade if its attacks on Israel persist. REUTERS

JOHANNESBURG

South African coalition party withdraws from national dialogue

REUTERS

South Africa's Democratic Alliance, a member of the ruling unity government, said it was withdrawing from a "national dialogue" grouping aimed at tackling the problems dogging the country. The initiative has been criticised by DA leader John Steenhuisen saying it was nothing more than a "waste of time and money". AFP

KYIV

Russian drone strike in Ukraine's Odesa kills two, injures 17 others

AFP

Two persons died and at least 17 more were injured as Russian drones overnight struck the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa, Ukrainian authorities said on Saturday. A drone slammed into a residential tower block in the city, causing damage to three floors and trapping residents. AP

BUDAPEST

Major turnout as Budapest Pride defies Orban's ban in Hungary

REUTERS

Tens of thousands began marching on Saturday for the Budapest Pride parade, defying a government ban that marks a major pushback against LGBTQ rights in the European Union. Organisers expect a record turnout of 35,000 people, despite a police ban imposed by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government. AFP

Israeli PM slams report criticising troops

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz emphatically rejected a report in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, which claimed Israeli soldiers were ordered to shoot at Palestinians approaching aid sites inside Gaza. They called the report's findings "malicious falsehoods to defame" the military.

More than 500 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded while seeking food since the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began distributing aid in the territory about a month ago. Witnesses say Israeli troops have opened fire at crowds heading toward the sites.

At least 62 killed in Gaza as truce prospects inch closer

Three children and their parents killed in an Israeli strike on a tent camp in Muwasi near the southern city of Khan Younis; Trump says there could be a ceasefire within the next week

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes killed at least 62 people across Gaza overnight and into Saturday, health workers said, as ceasefire prospects were said to be improving.

Three children and their parents were killed in an Israeli strike on a tent camp in Muwasi near the southern city of Khan Younis. They were struck while sleeping, relatives said.

Also among the dead were 12 persons near the Palestine Stadium in Gaza City, which was sheltering displaced people, and eight more in apartments. More than 20 bodies were taken to Nasser Hospital.

Sifting through: Palestinians dig through sand looking for belongings after an Israeli strike hit a camp in Gaza City. AP

A midday strike killed 11 persons on a street in eastern Gaza City. A strike on a gathering at the entrance to the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed two.

U.S. President Donald Trump says there could be a ceasefire agreement within the next week. Taking questions from reporters, he said, "We are working on Gaza and trying to get it taken care of."

An official with knowledge of the situation said Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer will arrive in Washington next week for talks on a Gaza ceasefire and Iran.

Indirect talks between Israel and Hamas have been on again, off again since Israel broke the latest ceasefire in March, continuing its military campaign in Gaza and furthering the territory's dire humanitarian crisis.

The war has killed over 56,000 Palestinians.The dead include 6,089 killed since the end of the latest ceasefire.

Iran holds state funeral for top brass slain in Israel war

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran held a state funeral on Saturday for some 60 scientists and commanders killed in its war with Israel, after its top diplomat condemned the latest White House tirade against supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

State television aired footage of thousands of black-clad mourners chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" as they held aloft photographs of the dead.

President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the ceremony as did Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, a senior adviser to Khamenei who used a walking cane after being wounded in an Israeli strike in the war.

But the supreme leader himself stayed away.

Abbas Araghchi mourning at the coffin of Revolutionary Guards commander Hossein Salami in Tehran on Saturday. AFP

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi paid tribute to the war effort in a post on his Instagram account.

"Iranians gave blood, not land; gave their loved ones, not honour; they withstood a thousand-ton rain of bombs, but did not surrender," the top diplomat said, adding that Iran does not recognise the word "surrender."

Among the dead was armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri, who will be buried with his wife and journalist daughter who were killed alongside him.

Of the 60 people who are to be laid to rest, four are children and four are women.

Thousands demand Thailand PM quit over border dispute

Reuters
BANGKOK

Thousands of protesters rallied in the Thai capital Bangkok on Saturday to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, piling pressure on a government at risk of collapse over a border dispute with neighbouring Cambodia.

In the largest such rally since the ruling Pheu Thai party came to power in 2023, crowds braved heavy monsoon rain to demonstrate against Ms. Paetongtarn, 38, who is also battling to revive a faltering economy and keep a fragile coalition together ahead of a potential no-confidence vote next month.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra

The latest dispute started with a skirmish between Thailand and Cambodia over a disputed patch of territory in May. Thai nationalist groups called for Ms. Paetongtarn to go after she appeared to criticise a Thai Army commander and kowtow to Cambodia's former leader, Hun Sen, in a leaked phone call with him.

Rwanda, DR Congo sign an agreement in U.S. to end fighting

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Claiming credit, Trump says the region begins a new chapter of hope and opportunity

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo signed a peace agreement on Friday in Washington to end fighting that has killed thousands, with the two countries pledging to pull back support for guerrillas – and U.S. President Donald Trump boasting of securing mineral wealth.

"Today, the violence and destruction comes to an end, and the entire region begins a new chapter of hope and opportunity," Mr. Trump said as he welcomed the two nations' Foreign Ministers to the White House.

The agreement comes after the M23, an ethnic Tutsi rebel force linked to Rwanda, sprinted across the mineral-rich east of the DRC this year. The deal does not explicitly address the gains of the M23 in the area but calls for Rwanda to end "defensive measures" it has taken.

Rwanda has denied directly supporting the M23 but has demanded an end to another armed group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), established by ethnic Hutus linked to the massacres of Tutsis in the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

Bangladesh reaffirms commitment to minority rights after temple demolition

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh has said that it remains firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of all communities and protecting places of worship but building religious structures on public land is not permissible "under any circumstance".

The Foreign Ministry's statement on Friday came a day after India denounced the reported destruction of a Durga temple in Dhaka and stressed the responsibility of Bangladesh's interim government to protect Hindus as well as religious institutions.

Ripple effects: The move comes a day after India denounced the reported destruction of a Durga temple in Dhaka. FILE PHOTO

The Ministry said the temple in Dhaka's Khilkhet area was built on land owned by Bangladesh Railways, and its removal was carried out following due process to recover public land. It alleged that the temple started as a makeshift pavilion, with organisers attempting to make the temporary structure permanent despite repeated reminders.

On June 26, Bangladesh Railways proceeded with the "peaceful eviction of all unauthorised structures along the rail track in Khilkhet area," it said.

"While the laws of the land ensure full protection to all places of worship without discriminating against any built-in conformity with law, it is not permissible for any to build any religious structure encroaching public land," the Ministry said.

"Bangladesh remains firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of all communities, including protection of the places of worship," it added.

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BREAKING THROUGH

My teammates told me it was high time I got a hundred, says Smriti

GETTY IMAGES

(A maiden T20I century) took a long time to come. I had a habit of getting out in the 70s and 80s. My teammates and me, before this series, were talking about how it's high time I get a hundred. (The win) is just the start, we need to keep the momentum going and get into good habits - Smriti Mandhana.

MEMORABLE OUTING

Shree Charani steals the limelight on debut

GETTY IMAGES

Shree Charani had a debut to remember against England. She registered the second-best figures (four for 12) by an Indian woman on T20I debut to inflict England's biggest loss in the format. Sravanthi Naidu's four for nine against Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar in 2014 is the best figures by an Indian on maiden appearance.

WHY NOT!

Neeraj backs India speedster Bumrah to excel in javelin

REUTERS

Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra feels that India pacer Jasprit Bumrah can excel in his discipline. "I think it would be a fast bowler (a good javelin thrower from another sport), for sure. So, I think a fully fit Jasprit Bumrah, in his prime, will be good at it," Neeraj told *Star Sports*.

HARD-FOUGHT WIN

Paulinho's strike takes Palmeiras into Club World Cup quarterfinals

AFP

Palmeiras edged out Botafogo 1-0 in extra time to enter the quarterfinals of the Club World Cup at the Lincoln Financial Field Stadium in Philadelphia on Saturday. Paulinho scored the winner in the 100th minute after the two Brazilian sides failed to break the deadlock in regulation time.

Smriti's maiden T20I ton powers India to big win

Stand-in skipper's quickfire opening stand with Shafali sets the tone for the visiting team; Harleen weighs in with a 23-ball 43; debutant Shree Charani's four for 12 sends the host hurtling to defeat

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
NOTTINGHAM

Stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's maiden T20 International hundred powered India to a 97-run win over England in the opening match here on Saturday.

The visitors lead the five-match T20I series 1-0.

Smriti (112, 62b, 15x4, 3x6) and Harleen Deol (43, 23b, 7x4) added 94 runs for the second wicket as India posted a commanding 210 for five after being invited to bat.

Top stuff: Smriti's knock included 15 fours and three sixes as she became India's highest scorer in T20Is. AP

Lone battle

Skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt (66, 42 balls) waged a lone battle as England was bundled out 113 in 14.5 overs.

For India, debutant left-arm spinner Shree Charani (four for 12) was the most successful bowler.

Smriti, who led the team in the absence of regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur, gave the Indian innings early impetus and put on 77 runs for the opening wicket with Shafali Varma (20, 22b).

Shafali's dismissal did not deter Smriti as Harleen joined the left-hander. Harleen was dropped on 26 by Danny Wyatt-Hodge off spinner Alice Capsey near mid-wicket. Smriti brought up her fifty in 27 balls, and the next 50 came off just 24 balls.

In style

She reached the century in style, hammering pacer Lauren Bell for two consecutive boundaries.

Her knock is the highest for India in T20Is, surpassing Harmanpreet's 103.

England tried to stage a late comeback as Bell removed Richa Ghosh (12) and Jemimah Rodrigues (0) in the 18th over but by then the Women in Blue were already closing in on the 200-run mark.

The scores: India 210/5 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 112, Harleen Deol 43, Lauren Bell 3/27) bt England 113 in 14.5 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 66, Deepti Sharma 2/32, Shree Charani 4/12, Radha Yadav 2/15).
Toss: England; **PoM:** Smriti.
India won by 97 runs to lead five-match series 1-0.
Second T20I: July 1, Bristol, 11 p.m. IST.

Wickets remain top priority for Prasidh, not the economy rate

N. Sudarshan
BIRMINGHAM

Prasidh Krishna has had a tough initiation into Test cricket. Having made his debut 18 months ago in the Centurion Test against South Africa, he has had a stop-start career. He has played just four matches, secured 13 wickets, leaked runs at more than five an over and lost eight months to a quadriceps injury.

Yet, there is a quiet confidence in the Indian think-tank that the 29-year-old who measures at 6'2" is a supremely viable option. The first Test against England in Leeds may not have been pretty for Prasidh, as he bowled 35 overs across two innings, conceded a whopping 220 runs and scalped five wickets.

But he is the kind of hit-the-deck bowler India has long desired, one who can generate disconcerting bounce and threaten the top-half of the bat.

With Ishant Sharma no longer involved, Prasidh is seen as that bowler who can extract more from the turf. One bad match, and that too at a ground that has historically helped those who have bowled fuller, is not going to change that.

"I definitely did not bowl the lengths that I wanted," Prasidh admitted after the five-wicket loss in Headingley. "Not wanting to float it up is definitely one of the reasons. In the first innings, I was a little shorter than where I wanted to be. That six to eight [metre length] is ideal.

Problem areas: Prasidh says he did not get the line and length quite right in the series opener. GETTY IMAGES

"The second innings got better because the wicket was slightly slower. I had to pitch slightly behind and then go fuller when I was trying to get a wicket."

In the past, India has sought control and discipline from the third pacer. But in Leeds, Prasidh literally 'bought' wickets by forcing batters into pulls and hooks, with captain Shubman Gill even coming up with customised fielding positions. The next four Tests, starting with Edgbaston from July 2, will offer more clarity on his role.

"Somebody in the team had to do it," Prasidh said. "If I sit back and say, 'I want to look at my numbers, what my economy is,' and not really look at the wickets... It cost me a four and a six, but Jamie Smith got out. If it means that I do that and get a wicket, I'm happy to do it."

But deep down, Prasidh is clear about his own expectations. "Every time I bowl, I'm definitely looking to bowl a maiden," he stated. "The outfield [at Headingley] was fast, the lengths, lines that I bowled were not perfect, and they took me on.

"Some of them were edges, some of them I tried bowling bouncers and ended up giving runs. I definitely would want to bring that [economy] down. I'm learning as well and it's my responsibility to get better."

It is imperative that this happens fast as India will be significantly weakened by Jasprit Bumrah's absence in two of the four remaining Tests.

"We are learning off each other," the lanky speedster said. "He's [Bumrah] been talking to all of us all even before coming here. [Mohammed] Siraj has played a lot of games, and he's going to continue.

"One thing you cannot get is experience. That you have to earn yourself, and all of us are excited. Whoever comes in, or whatever happens later, it's [going to be] an opportunity for us".

Wrecker-in-chief: Hazlewood exults after snaring West Indies captain Chase. AFP

Hazlewood bowls Australia to victory

AUSTRALIA IN WI

Agence France-Presse
BRIDGETOWN

Australia's vaunted pace attack demolished West Indies' fragile batting, routing the hosts for just 141 off 33.4 overs to complete a comprehensive 159-run victory in the final over of the third day of the first Test at the Kensington Oval on Friday.

Josh Hazlewood was the chief destroyer with figures of five for 43 as the tourists dominated the day with both bat and ball.

Half-centuries from Alex Carey, Beau Webster and Travis Head were the fulcrum of a recovery from 65 for four late on day two to a second innings total of 310 at tea the next day.

Shamar Joseph led the West Indies bowling effort with five wickets at the cost of 87 runs for a match haul of nine for 133.

Any winning target in excess of 200 was always going to be challenging on this two-paced surface.

As it transpired, West Indies never looked up to the task from the moment former captain Kraigg Brathwaite fell to Mitchell Starc in the first over.

Hazlewood then took centre stage.

The scores:
Australia 180 & 310 (Carey 65, Webster 63, Head 61, Shamar Joseph 5/87) bt West Indies 190 & 141 in 33.4 overs (Shamar Joseph 44, Hazlewood 5/43).
PoM: Head.

Jayasuriya took a five-for. AP

Jayasuriya propels SL to series win

Associated Press
COLOMBO

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took his 12th five-wicket haul to lead Sri Lanka to a win over Bangladesh by an innings and 78 runs in the second Test and a 1-0 victory in the two-match series.

The fourth day started with Bangladesh on 115 for six, needing 97 more runs to make Lanka bat again. But the rest of the match lasted less than 30 minutes as Jayasuriya polished off the tail by taking three of the last four wickets at the Singhalese Sports Club.

Najmul Hossain Shanto stepped down as the Bangladesh Test captain after his side's loss.

The scores: Bangladesh 247 & 133 in 44.2 overs (Jayasuriya 5/56) lost to Sri Lanka 458.
PoM & PoS: Nissanka.

Pretorius and Bosch punish Zimbabwe

Agence France-Presse
BULAWAYO

Teenager Lhuan-dre Pretorius hit a dazzling 153 on debut and transformed South Africa's fortunes on the first day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club on Saturday.

South Africa scored 418 for nine, a total which seemed unlikely when Pretorius arrived at the crease with his team in trouble at 23 for three.

Fast bowling all-rounder Corbin Bosch, batting at No. 8, was batting on 100 at stumps.

Pretorius, a solidly-built left-hander aged 19 years and 93 days, became the youngest South African to hit a Test century and the seventh from his country to make a hundred on Test debut.

Pretorius gave no chances, but the Zimbabwean players seemed convinced that he had edged a ball from Chivanga to wicket-keeper Tafadzwa Tsiga when he was on 30. No decision review system is in place for the series.

Chivanga, who took the first three wickets while conceding only eight runs, took four for 83 despite seeming to struggle with a hamstring strain during the afternoon.

Pretorius became the youngest South African to hit a Test century while Bosch brought up his maiden First Class ton. X@PROTEASMENCSA

Bosch was on 84 when the ninth wicket fell but last man Kwena Maphaka shepherded him to his maiden First Class century.

The scores:
South Africa 418/9 in 90 overs (Pretorius 153, Brevis 51, Bosch 100 batting, Chivanga 4/83) vs Zimbabwe; **Toss:** SA.

Right on cue: The Indian team tamed the higher-rated Malaysia for the title. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India regains team gold in Asian snooker championship

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Pankaj Advani and Brijesh Damani dug deep as India scored a 3-1 win over Malaysia to regain the team gold in the ACBS Asian snooker championship in Coloumbo on Saturday. For India, which last won the gold two years ago in Iran, this was its fifth gold.

Having been put through the wringer in the semifinals earlier in the morning by Hong Kong-1 (3-2), the Indians without Aditya Mehta, who suffered a neck niggle, for both the matches, came back recharged for the final. Advani, who dropped a frame in the semis against Kwok Wai Fung, brushed aside Lim Kok Leong to make it one-frame apiece.

The Indians won the doubles before Advani sealed the gold with a victory over Chuan Leong.

The results: Final: India bt Malaysia 3-1 (Brijesh Damani lost to Thor Chuan Leong 58 (52) -68; Pankaj Advani bt Lim Kok Leong 66 (51) -25; Advani/ Damani bt Thor Chuan/ Lim Kok 76 (60) -33; Advani bt Thor Chuan Leong 58-1).
Semifinals: India beat Hong Kong (1) 3-2.

Norris. AP

Norris takes pole for Austrian GP

Associated Press
SPIELBERG

Lando Norris took pole position for the Austrian Grand Prix even as his teammate and championship leader Oscar Piastri could only manage third. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will start second.

The grid: First row: Norris (McLaren) and Leclerc (Ferrari); **Second:** Piastri (McLaren) and Hamilton (Ferrari); **Third:** Russell (Mercedes) and Lawson (Racing Bulls); **Fourth:** Verstappen (Red Bull) and Bortoleto (Sauber); **Fifth:** Antonelli (Mercedes) and Gasly (Alpine); **Sixth:** Alonso (Aston Martin) and Albon (Williams); **Seventh:** Hadjar (Racing Bulls) and Colapinto (Alpine); **Eighth:** Bearman (Haas) and Stroll (Aston Martin); **Ninth:** Ocon (Haas) and Tsunoda (Red Bull); **10th:** Sainz (Williams) and Hulkenberg (Sauber).

INBRIEF

Khaleel Ahmed joins English County Essex

India's left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed will play for Essex, until the conclusion of the 2025 English County season. He will be available for both the Rothesay County Championship and the Metro Bank One-Day Cup. He has represented the country in 11 ODIs and 18 T20Is. "I am thrilled to sign for Essex. I'm excited to be part of it and will look to make an immediate impact."

Nikhat off to a winning start; Anjali causes an upset

Two-time World champion Nikhat Zareen registered a 4-1 win against Uttar Pradesh's Rashi Sharma in the 48-51kg category in the Elite Women's Boxing Tournament in Hyderabad on Saturday. Haryana's Anjali caused an upset on the opening day when she got the better of World Championships bronze medallist Manisha Moun 3-1 in the 57-60 kg category. Former world champion Nitu's 5-0 win (45-48kg) against Rajani Singh and Telangana's Yashi Sharma defeating Tamil Nadu's K. Monisha 5-0 in the 60-65kg category were among the other notable results.

Giroud to part ways with LAFC, expected to join Lille

Olivier Giroud is parting ways with Los Angeles FC after one disappointing year with the Major League Soccer club. The 38-year-old Giroud and LAFC announced the decision Friday on social media. He will play in his final match on Sunday at home against Vancouver. After scoring only five goals in 37 matches for LAFC, Giroud will become a free agent after his departure. He is widely expected to join Lille, which finished fifth in the French league last season, on a free transfer.

Fraser-Pryce books ticket to her ninth World c'ships

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce punched her ticket to a ninth World Championships with a third-placed finish in the 100m at the Jamaican national athletics trials in Kingston on Friday.
Fraser-Pryce, a three-time Olympic gold medallist and 10-time world champion, clocked 10.91 seconds to finish third in the women's 100m final and secure a berth for the Worlds in Tokyo in September. Tina Clayton won her first national title in a personal best of 10.81 with reigning 200m world champion Shericka Jackson second in 10.88. Fraser-Pryce won her first Worlds medal at Osaka in 2007 – a silver in the 4x100m relay – before going on to win 10 world titles, five of them in the 100m.

Hoffenheim signs Japan defender Machida

German team Hoffenheim has signed Japan defender Koki Machida from Belgian champion Royale Union Saint-Gilloise. The 27-year-old Machida, who has played 17 games for Japan, signed a "long-term contract" at Hoffenheim, the Bundesliga club said on Friday without elaborating.

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 2, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

Formula One: Austrian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 9.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Arasu wins sprint double; Abinaya is fastest woman

Railways' Bhavani takes the women's long jump gold with a 6.31m leap in the sixth and final attempt; Tamil Nadu's Rajesh outclasses his rivals in the men's 400m

INDIAN OPEN

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Tamil Arasu bagged a sprint double in the Indian Open athletics meet held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

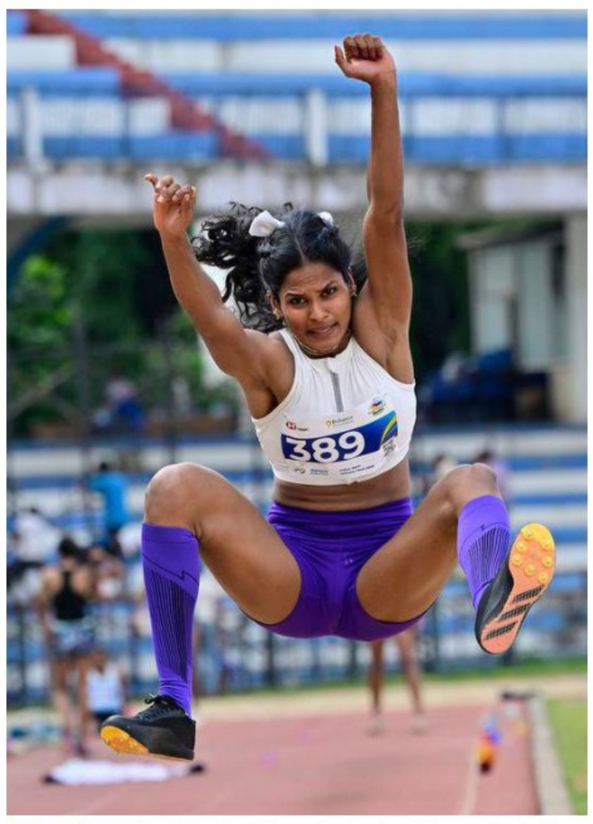
Arasu won a crowded 100m men's field with a timing of 10.46s, before taking the gold in the 200m.

Arasu (21.25s), in Race E, clocked the same timing as Haryana's Shubham from Race A.

Arasu was declared the winner on basis of wind-resistance.

There was some inconvenience for athletes as the pole vault events were shifted to the SAI campus. Officials stated that the SAI campus was better equipped to handle the pole vault events, even as the decision came rather late in the day.

Teenager Abinaya Rajarajan impressed in the women's 100m, taking first place with a fine 11.55s run.



Delivering under pressure: Bhavani edged out Sandra to win the long jump event. K. MURALI KUMAR

Railways' Bhavani Yadav took the women's long jump gold with a 6.31m leap in the sixth and final attempt to edge out JSW's Sandra Babu (6.24m).

Tamil Nadu's Rajesh Ramesh (45.97s) blitzed his way to the men's 400m gold, outclassing his rivals.

The results (winners): Men: 100m: Tamil Arasu (Railways) 10.46s; **200m:** Tamil Arasu (Railways) 21.25; **400m:** Rajesh Ramesh (TN) 45.97; **800m:** Aman Kumar (UP) 1:48.11; **1,500m:** Rahul Baloda (Raj) 3:51.58; **110m hurdles:** Dhanush Adithan (TN) 14.20; **400m hurdles:** Rakshith Ravindhra (NCOE, Bengaluru) 52.74; **3,000m steeplechase:** Atul Poonia (Raj) 8:57.23; **Long jump:** Muhammed Anees (Reliance) 7.93m; **High jump:** Sarvesh Anil (Mah) 2.21; **Triple jump:** U. Karthik (Air Force) 16.08; **Shot put:** Vishwa Ayyappan (TN) 16.99. **Women: 100m:** Abinaya Rajarajan (NCOE, Thiruvananthapuram) 11.55s; **200m:** Angel Silvia (NCOE, Bengaluru) 23.81; **400m:** G.K. Vijayakumari (Kar) 53.34; **800m:** B. Huidrom (IOCL) 2:09.30; **1,500m:** Thota Sankeertana (CG) 4:27.14; **100m hurdles:** C. Anjali (Ker) 13.65; **400m hurdles:** R. Aswini (TN) 58.26; **3,000m steeplechase:** Vandana Mori (Guj) 10:29.93; **Long jump:** Bhavani Yadav (Railways) 6.31m; **Triple jump:** N.V. Sheena (Ker) 13.05; **High jump:** K. Gobika (TN) 1.80; **Shot put:** V. Ambika (Kar) 14.14; **Pole vault:** Sathya Tamilarasan (TN) 3.95.

Yuki-Galloway duo goes down in final

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Santiago Gonzalez and Austin Krajicek survived three match points to beat Yuki Bhambri and Robert Galloway 6-1, 1-6, [15-13] in the doubles final of the €596,035 ATP tennis tournament on grass in Mallorca, Spain, on Saturday. The champion team won 250 ATP points and €31,530. The Indo-American pair got 150 points and €16,940.

The results: €596,035 ATP, Mallorca, Spain: Doubles (final): Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Yuki Bhambri & Robert Galloway (USA) 6-1, 1-6, [15-13].

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (final): Alejandro Pertusa (Esp) & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Luca Pow (GBR) 7-6(11), 6-3.

Junior men's Hockey WC: India, Pakistan in same group

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The much-delayed draw for the 2025 Hockey Men's Junior World Cup was finally completed in Lausanne on Saturday with India and Pakistan drawn in the same group, adding another layer to both the excitement and uncertainty around the neighbouring team's participation in the event.

The event, to be hosted by Chennai and Madurai in December this year, will be the first-ever 24-team competition in international hockey with the FIH president Tayyab Ikram stating it was an attempt to "try to empower and engage youth from all nations."

The pools:
A: Germany, South Africa, Canada, Ireland; **B:** India, Pakistan, Chile, Switzerland.
C: Argentina, New Zealand, Japan, China.
D: Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Namibia; **E:** The Netherlands, Malaysia, England, Austria.
F: France, Australia, Korea, Bangladesh.

Tejaswin gets some hurdles exposure

Maya Sarkar
BENGALURU

National high jump record holder and decathlete Tejaswin Shankar made a rare appearance in the men's 110m hurdles event at the Indian open athletics meet at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

Competing in his first standalone 110m hurdles event in a long while, Tejaswin placed seventh. He also featured in the high jump, where he claimed silver behind Sarvesh Anil.

Tejaswin continues to hold the high jump National record (2.29m).

Tejaswin stated that gaining experience against seasoned 110m hurdles athletes helps in becoming a better overall decathlete.

"Hurdles, among the 10 events in decathlon, is one of those events where the more reps I do, the better I get. In practice, you can never simulate that competition environment. Here, you get regional talent competing against you.

"It's always beneficial for me to compete against seasoned specialists," said Tejaswin.

Optimisation of resources: Tejaswin says it is beneficial to compete against seasoned specialists. K. MURALI KUMAR

The JSW athlete explained that this tournament comes in as handy preparation ahead of the inter-State championships.

"There are certain competitions that you have to do to qualify for the inter-State championships. I've hit two birds with one stone - the criteria for the inter-State, which was 2.05m, and also to see where I'm at in terms of my preparation," Tejaswin said.

The 26-year-old recently won the decathlon silver at the Asian Athletics Championships, but he was not entirely satisfied with his performance. Tejaswin hoped to erase his own National record of 7,666 points, but fell short with 7,618 points.

"This year, my big event was the Asian Championships. The only thing I missed out on was breaking my own National record. Obviously, at such a big competition, ultimately all that matters is that you earn a medal, but my personal goal was still not achieved," he added.

India women stare at relegation after the loss to China

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
BERLIN

The Indian women's hockey team on Saturday lost 0-3 against China to slump to its seventh consecutive defeat in the European-leg of the FIH Pro League here, and is staring at a possible relegation from the tournament. After the defeat, India occupies the bottom place in the nine team standings with 10 points from 15 games.

Chen Yang (21st minute) and Zhang Ying (26th) scored from penalty corners, while Anhul Yu (45th) found the target from a field effort for China. India made a bright start and made some good circle penetrations in the first quarter.

Baljeet Kaur had the first real chance of the match but her shot from the top of the circle in the third minute went wide.

A minute later, India secured two-back-to-back first penalty corners but Deepika failed on both the occasions.

India goalkeeper Savita made some fine saves to deny the Chinese, including one in the 13th minute to keep out Guoting Hao's reverse hit.

China came out all guns blazing in the second quarter and dominated the proceedings in the form of penalty corners, and in the 21st minute, Chen Yang scored from a set piece.

China continued to put pressure on the Indian defence and got its fifth penalty corner in the 26th minute and Zhang Ying made no mistake from the chance as it took a 2-0 lead at half time.

China tripled its lead in the 45th minute through a field goal by Anhul Yu against the run of play.

The Indians secured a penalty stroke in the 55th minute but Deepika missed the golden chance.

The result: China 3 (Chen Yang 21, Zhang Ying 26, Anhul Yu 45) bt India 0.

Tanvi, Ayush in US Open semifinals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
IOWA

Tanvi Sharma and Ayush Shetty marched into the semifinals of the US Open badminton tournament with convincing wins in the Super 300 Tournament here on Friday.

The 16-year-old Tanvi wrapped up her match in 33 minutes with a 21-13, 21-16 victory over higher-ranked Malaysian Karupathevan Letshanaa. Ayush also dished out an excellent performance as he got the better of Kuo Kuan Lin 22-20, 21-9 of Chinese Taipei.

However, the men's doubles pair of A. Hariharan and R. Ruban Kumar lost their quarterfinal 21-9, 21-19 to Chiang Chien and Wei Wu Hsuan-yi of Chinese Taipei.

While Tanvi will take on Ukraine's Polina Buhrova in her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 last-four appearance, Ayush will run into top seed Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei.

Indian Brocade wins feature event

RACING

BENGALURU: Ms. Ameeta Mehra's Indian Brocade (Neeraj up) won the Deltin Juvenile Sprinters' Million (1,200m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 28).
The winner is trained by Rajesh Narredu.
THE RESULTS:
1. ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,200M): BALTIMORE (Asirvatham) 1, Flamingo Dream (Jagadeesh) 2, Raffles (Trevor) 3 and Golden Gallery (G. Vivek) 4. Not run: N R I Millennium. 3/4, 3/4 and 1/2. 1m 16.42s. ₹298 (w), 44, 14 and 11 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 52, FP: 1,447, Q: 826, Trinella: 3,917/1,343, Exacta: 14,972/9,624. Favourite: Raffles.
Owner: Mr. S. Thiruppathy. Trainer: Azhar Ali.
2. POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200M): HIGH SPEED DIVE (G. Vivek) 1, The Strikingly (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Ebotse (Aleemuddin) 3 and Southern Force (Akshay K) 4. 9, 1 and 7-3/4. 1m 13.69s. ₹25 (w), 12, 20 and 19 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 45, FP: 271, Q: 217, Trinella: 706/307, Exacta: 6,247/1,853. Favourite: Grey Beauty.
Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.
3. SMART CHIEFTAN PLATE (1,400M): HYPERDRIVE (G. Vivek) 1, Neutralist (Suraj) 2, Scent Of Rain (Trevor) 3 and Fiery Lexi (R. Ajinkya) 4. Hd, 5-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 27.68s. ₹145 (w), 23, 15 and 11 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 50, FP: 450, Q: 112, Trinella: 518/227, Exacta: 5,563/14,306. Favourite: Scent Of Rain.
Owners: Mr. D. Shailesh Shivaswamy, Dr. Dayananda Pai P, Mr. K. Ravi & Mr. Sudarshan M. Raju. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.
4. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. II), (1,300M): OUT INTO SPOTLIGHT (Mustakim Alam) 1, Blind Faith (Neeraj) 2, Immortal Beauty (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Extraordinary (N.B. Kuldeep) 4. Not run: Super Kind. 3, 8-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 21.40s. ₹30 (w), 15, 18 and 66 (p), SHP: 46, THP: 175, FP: 165, Q: 72, Trinella: 3,408/4,869, Exacta: 43,536 (carried over)/18,658. Favourite: Adelanto.
Owners: Capt Jamshed J. Appoo, Mr. Sp. Thirunavukkarasu & Mr. Dean Stephens'. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.
5. MANAGING COMMITTEE GOLD CUP (1,600M): MAYNE MAGIC (Antony) 1, Champions Way (Abhishek Mhatre) 2, Sativur (G. Vivek) 3 and Star Of Night (Akshay K) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m 38.04s. ₹20 (w), 11, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 42, FP: 132, Q: 93, Trinella: 531/359, Exacta: 1,152/355. Favourite: Mayne Magic.
Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: Kishan Thomas K.
6. DELTIN JUVENILE SPRINTERS' MILLION (1,200M): INDIAN BROCADE (Neeraj) 1, Elusive Art (Sandesh) 2, Pole Star (Akshay K) 3 and Joondalup (C. Umesh) 4. 3-1/2, 1-3/4 and 3-1/2. 1m 12.90s. ₹20 (w), 11, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 36, FP: 56, Q: 34, Trinella: 112/65, Exacta: 642/381. Favourite: Indian Brocade.
Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.
7. POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200M): STAR CONCEPT (Shezad Khan) 1, Dynamic Force (N.S. Parmar) 2, Aherne (C.A. Brisson) 3 and Gimmler (Faiz) 4. 2, 1-1/4 and Snk. 1m 15.22s. ₹114 (w), 22, 11 and 18 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 37, FP: 329, Q: 105, Trinella: 1,438/1,160, Exacta: 3,537/993. Favourite: Dynamic Force.
Owners: Mr. Sunil K. Vasant, Mr. Karan Kashinath, Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd & Mr. Chetan Shantilal Shah. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.
8. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. I), (1,300M): SASSY SARAH (Trevor) 1, N R I Victory (R. Vaibhav) 2, The Gallery Time (Chethan K) 3 and Habibti (Antony) 4. Not run: Knotty Affair. 4-3/4, 1-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 20.94s. ₹13 (w), 11, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 68, FP: 38, Q: 42, Trinella: 384/174, Exacta: 851/387. Favourite: Sassy Sarah.
Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Harish Nayak & Mr. H.J. Balram. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.
Jackpot: ₹1,565 (311 tkts).
Runner up: 520 (401 tkts).
Treble (i): 1,147 (12 tkts); (ii): 504 (89 tkts).

Time And Tide for Chief Minister's Cup

BENGALURU: Time And Tide, who is in fine fettle, may score an encore in the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday. False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25 – 1.30 pm: 1. Count Basie (-) (-) 62.5, 2. Westlake (8) Antony 62.5, 3. Anchorage (2) Ritesh Gochhi 62, 4. Royal Whisper (7) Darshan N 61, 5. Sea Diamond (9) Vinod Shinde 61, 6. Channagide (6) P. Tejeshwar 59.5, 7. Sunlit Path (1) Sandesh 59, 8. Ice Storm (3) Shivam 58.5, 9. Embosom (4) Jagadeesh 56.5 and 10. Burning Arrow (5) M. Rajesh K 55.
1. SUNLIT PATH, 2. WESTLAKE, 3. ANCHORAGE

2 LITTLEOVER PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms) – 2-00: 1. Aphelion (11) Salman Khan 56, 2. Efficacy (-) (-) 56, 3. Inicio (10) S.A. Amit 56, 4. Konkrah (3) Sandesh 56, 5. Paulite Warrior (2) Arul J.H 56, 6. Victoria Cross (9) Neeraj 56, 7. Blue Storm (1) Arvind K 54.5, 8. Catch The Worm (5) Shreyas S 54.5, 9. Fiery Love (6) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 10. Key West (7) P.P. Dhebe 54.5, 11. Knotty Cruise (-) (-) 54.5 and 12. Nozomi (4) Antony 54.5.
1. KONKRAH, 2. CATCH THE WORM, 3. VICTORIA CROSS

3 ASTRONOMIC PLATE (2,000m), rated 40 to 65 – 2-30: 1. Victor Hugo (4) L.A. Rozario 60, 2. Odysseus (3) Neeraj 59, 3. Gordon (5) Suraj 56.5, 4. Miss Smiley Angel (2) G. Vivek 54, 5. Mindful (1) Yash 53.5, 6. Wolf Creek (6) C. Umesh 51.5 and 7. Moon Star (7) Akshay K 50.5.
1. MOON STAR, 2. VICTOR HUGO

4 ADLER PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 – 3-00: 1. Divine Star (3) Trevor 62.5, 2. Finley (5) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Power Of Beauty (8) Arul J.H. 58, 4. Pantazi (4) Sandesh 57.5, 5. Clara (6) Antony 55.5, 6. Set In Gold (7) Yash 54, 6. IL Volo (2) M. Rajesh K 52 and 8. Sir Winston (1) Hindu S 50.5.
1. PANTAZI, 2. DIVINE STAR, 3. FINLEY

5 KARNATAKA SUB-AREA CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 – 3-30: 1. Trakila (1) Trevor 60.5, 2. Bharat (3) Darshan N 60, 3. Forseti (9) C.A. Brisson 58, 4. Metzinger (4) Pavan 58, 5. Divine Art (2) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Bashir (10) Antony 55, 7. Blinky Bill (11) Vishwa V 55, 8. This Is Gold (7) A.S. Peter 55, 9. Victoria Doresaani (12) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 10. Grizzly (6) Abhishek Mhatre 54, 11. Invincible (5) M. Rajesh K 53.5 and 12. Regal Reality (8) Akshay K 52.5.
1. BHARAT, 2. TRAKILA, 3. VICTORIA DORESAANI

6 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms) – 4-00: 1. Time And Tide (8) Sandesh 60, 2. Knotty Charmer (-) (-) 58.5, 3. Magileto (3) Trevor 55.5, 4. Global Influence (9) A.S. Peter 53, 5. Miss American Pie (2) N.S. Parmar 53, 6. Aldgate (7) Antony 52.5, 7. Berrettini (5) P. Sai Kumar 52.5, 8. Glorious King (10) Yash 52.5, 9. Imperial Blue (4) Arvind K 52.5, 10. Star Glory (6) Siddaraju P 52.5 and 11. Crown Drive (1) Hindu S 52.
1. TIME AND TIDE, 2. MISS AMERICAN PIE, 3. MAGILETO

7 TUDOR JET PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over – 4-30: 1. Domina (6) A. Hangal 62.5, 2. Isabelle (3) Pavan 61.5, 3. Springsteen (4) Aleemuddin 61, 4. Bezawada Sultan (10) J. Chinoy 59, 5. Agera (1) Sai Kiran 58.5, 6. Stravinsky (8) M. Rajesh K 56, 7. Divo (2) Arjun 55.5, 8. Chisox (9) Faiz 54.5, 9. Gandolfini (5) Laxman S 53.5 and 10. Princess Jasmine (7) Suhas K 53.5.
1. ISABELLE, 2. SPRINGSTEEN, 3. PRINCESS JASMINE

8 DESERT GOD PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Ashwa Kali Bhani (4) Suraj 62.5, 2. Ibrahimovic (9) Arvind K 62, 3. Dubai Safari (5) Trevor 61.5, 4. Assimilate (7) C. Umesh 60, 5. Keitaro (1) Faiz 60, 6. DR Ash (10) M. Rajesh K 59, 7. Breeze Bluster (8) Koshi K 56, 8. Chicago Chimes (3) Bhawani S 55, 9. Continues (2) R. Pradeep 55, 10. CR Seven (6) Shivam 55 and 11. Santorius (11) Hindu S 55.
1. ASHWA KALI BHANI, 2. DUBAI SAFARI, 3. CONTINUES
Day's best: **TIME AND TIDE**
Double: **PANTAZI - ASHWA KALI BHANI**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.